

Labour poll pledge hints at year's rent freeze

By Richard Evans

The Labour Party launched its campaign for next month's local government elections yesterday with a carefully worded pledge hinting at a year-long rent freeze for council and private tenants if the party wins the next general election.

In a statement read out on behalf of Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader said that an incoming Labour government would "immediately make it clear to local authorities that it does not expect any increase in council rents in the first year and that for housing subsidy and rate support grant purposes it will be assumed that no such increase will be made".

Mr Frank Allau, the party's housing committee chairman, expanded on Mr Foot's statement and said it meant that the next Labour government would announce a one year freeze on the rents of council and private landlord tenants. Mr Allau said the new policy would affect nine million families and would cost £300m, given the present rate of inflation.

But Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment in the

Commons, was more cautious and said that any freeze would have to be set within the context of the party's financial policy for its housing programme.

Mr Kaufman has been fighting behind the scenes to prevent a rent freeze pledge being given, so that there is more cash for a future Labour government's housing construction programme.

Despite his opposition, Labour's national executive committee is almost certain to back a recommendation from its home policy committee which says a future Labour government should immediately tell local authorities it did not expect any increases in rent for the first year.

Mr Allau said that legislation would be required to enforce the rent freeze on private landlords. Any local authority which decided to increase rents would find itself in "financial difficulties".

In his local election campaign message, Mr Foot said the Conservatives wanted to turn local councils into compliant and subservient creatures "on the basis that

central government knows what is best for each area and how much should be spent by every council".

He added: "The only way to resist is to oust Tory councillors in their hundreds and replace them with Labour councillors committed to local involvement and local decision-making as the best way of providing valued public services".

Mr Kaufman said the local elections were about defending ratepayers' local council services and jobs. He accused Conservative councils of actively collaborating in reducing and damaging services.

"The Liberal and Social Democrat candidates offer a different policy for every street in every ward and when they come together in a town hall, if they do, they will be unable to administer a local authority coherently", he said.

Mr Walter Brown, Labour's assistant national agent, said yesterday that the party was contesting more seats than any other party in the country (the Press Association reports).

In England, Labour was putting up 4,581 candidates for 4,789 seats.

Boycott of three-way talks urged by unions

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Perth

The threat of a TUC boycott of bodies that bring together unions, employers and the Government resurfaced yesterday, as Scottish trade unions drew up their plans for opposing Mr Norman Tebbit's labour law reforms.

A motion bringing together the policies of left-wing and moderate unions retains the Scottish miners' proposal that the labour movement "should end collaboration on tripartite bodies where government policy is promoted".

This hardline attitude, which is expected to be approved by the TUC conference in two days' time, is likely to embarrass the TUC nationally.

The TUC General Council has, with some reluctance, shelved the threat of pulling out of tripartite bodies such as the National Economic Development Council and the Manpower Services Commission. Mention of that tactic was deliberately omitted from the strategy of opposition to the Employment Bill adopted at the special Wembley conference two weeks ago.

It is clearly now back on the agenda, and as the STUC tends to set a militant pace for other trade union gatherings, it is evident that even tougher boycott of the law and the Government will emerge from the September TUC Congress in Brighton.

The composite motion proposed by Mr Clive Jenkins' Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, pledges vigorously to oppose any new legislation in the trade union field and calls on all unions to maintain their policy of non-cooperation with existing laws.

It also urges that financial, industrial and "any other appropriate support" should be given to unions that become victims of Mr Tebbit's new legislation.

It concludes that "only militant resistance to the application of and-trade union law including the use of industrial action will succeed and calls on the general council to mobilize with rallies, demonstrations and coordinated industrial action on local and national levels."

This message was reinforced last night at an STUC "fringe" meeting, when Mr Michael Costello, industrial organizer of the Communist Party, said: "Anti-union legislation and incomes policies, whether called the social contract or by any other name, are two sides of the same coin."

"We must now go all out to bust the Tories' wages curbs and make clear that restrictions on collective bargaining cannot be negotiated with the Labour Party either."

Mr Costello has specifically excluded wage restraint in a document on economic recovery which will be discussed at its annual conference later this month.

The recommendation is justified by the statement that incomes planning could only form an element of a totally planned socialist economic system.

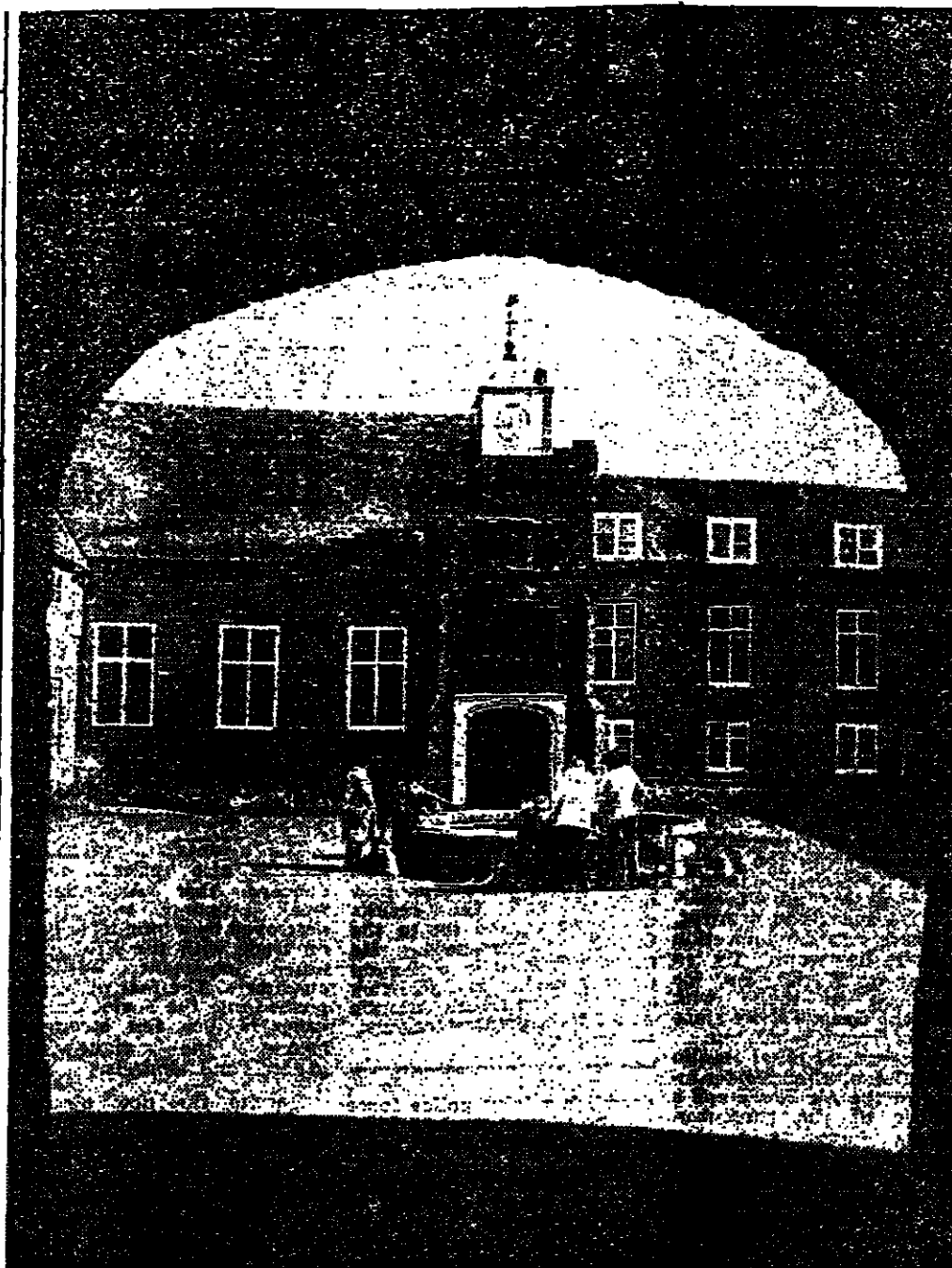
But, the document claims, legislation is needed to impose a national minimum wage set at two-thirds of the national average wage.

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Palace takeover planned at Putney

A courtyard at Fulham Palace, in west London, which residents near by are hoping to protect from being converted to offices or flats.

The residents, who announced their plans yesterday, believe that with the help of initial grants they could make the palace pay its way as a centre for exhibitions and concerts and by providing meeting rooms for community groups (our Environment Correspondent writes).

The palace and grounds by the Thames at Putney Bridge, which date from Tudor times have been given the highest grade of official historic building listing. An Ancient

Moments Order has been laid to protect the remains of the nearby moat, which may date back to the Roman occupation.

Mr Patrick Ground, QC, chairman of the Fulham Society and of the committee which is setting up the trust to run the property as a going concern with meeting rooms and catering facilities to offer at commercial rates. The plan includes acquiring from the Church Commissioners the freehold reversion of the palace and then accepting surrender of the council's lease held from the church.

Mr Ground would not disclose the likely cost of purchase, but said that the commissioners' income from the lease was small.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Parents to help pick senior staff

Parents will soon help to select teachers chosen for senior posts at Strathclyde schools, Councillor William Harley, chairman of the region's education committee, said in Glasgow yesterday.

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AUEW strike pay bill £5.5m in three years

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Government policy was putting severe financial pressure on trade unions Mr Terence Dufty, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday. He told the union's national committee in Eastbourne that the Government had embarked on a policy of sapping the financial numerical strength of the trade union movement.

"Unfortunately they are succeeding," he added.

The AUEW, which had sometimes been "described as a non-militant union," had in the last three years paid out more than £5.5m in dispute benefit.

It has in common with other unions, had its membership reduced as a result of unemployment. Membership is threatening to fall below one million for the first time in recent years. It fell from 1,166,512 at the end of 1980 to 1,024,317 at the end of 1981.

The combined general and superannuation funds held by the AUEW, Britain's second biggest union, also fell. During 1981 from £19,614,401 to £18,936,613.

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dispute benefit and its legal fees £1.3m.

Repeated by reports that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment was under pressure from backbench Conservative MPs to bring in legislation to ensure that trade unionists have to "contract in" to paying the political levy, Mr Dufty said the Conservatives were now making "another attempt to reduce our financial strength."

It was "rubbish" for Conservatives to claim that the present system, under which members of most unions have to "contract out" if they want to stop paying a political levy, is unfair.

Mr Dufty also gave a warning that while Labour had never had a better opportunity than at the present election to win an election on the Conservatives' disastrous and mainly economic policies, "sadly, they are fighting far better against one another than against the Tories."

Labour should be preparing for the next general election, but it "will lose support nationwide if we give the next Labour Government insupportable targets."

Labour should seek "either with medicine or if necessary, surgery" to make itself "fit for the fight."

Labour needed more MPs who had worked their way up from the shop floor. "We have far too many being selected from a middle class academic background," he said.

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Science report

All is not well for Einstein's theory

By the Staff of "Nature"

An apparent breakthrough in measurements of the Sun has indicated that all may not be well with Einstein's general theory of relativity — Einstein's geometrical theory of gravity.

General relativity has been checked in a number of ways, and it is clearly nearly right — more accurate, for example, than Sir Isaac Newton's theory, which is superseded by the new measurements of the Sun indicate that the theory may still not be perfect.

Great attention, therefore, is being paid to the measurements, which were announced by Professor Henry Hill, of Tucson, Arizona, at a conference of the Royal Astronomical Society in Dublin.

Professor Hill has spent nearly two decades perfecting equipment to measure very precisely the diameter of the Sun, not as it appears in a matter as it sounds. In particular, if the Sun is not a perfect sphere, Einstein's prediction of the exact orbit of the planet Mercury (the nearest planet to the Sun) would be affected.

Since the Sun spins, it might be expected to be slightly flatter at the equator than at the poles, as centrifugal force flings out its equatorial mass. However, calculations show that if the Sun were spinning as a whole only as fast as it appears to spin on the surface (about once every 25 days) the distortion would not be enough to upset Einstein.

Nevertheless, the core of the Sun might be spinning faster than the exterior, which is slowed down by the solar wind and the magnetic fields which link the Sun to interstellar space. Professor Hill's measurements show that this is the case, with the core spinning about four times as fast as the exterior.

And the calculated distortion of the Sun puts Mercury's orbit out of reach of Einstein. Professor Hill now believes that there is a "50-50 chance" that Einstein is wrong although he puts more weight on the possibility that the error lies in the measurements of Mercury's orbit, or that of the other planets which affect Mercury.

Making this statement, however, has cost Professor Hill a collaboration with Mr Douglas Gough, an astrophysicist at Cambridge University. The two were to produce a paper together, but Gough believes Hill is underestimating the uncertainties of his calculations. The internal solar rotation, however, could not be in itself.

Mr Gough has described certain aspects of Hill's calculations as "arbitrary". Professor Hill, however, counters that Gough's objections are "formal" and pedantic.

Whatever the conclusions on this front, the new measurements are also exciting for quite a different reason. In fact they depend not on a measurement of the solar diameter itself, but on variations — oscillations — in that diameter.

These oscillations are believed to indicate whole-body vibrations of the Sun and they can tell astrophysicists something about the solar interior. Professor Hill claims to have measured these oscillations with unprecedented precision by a new technique, producing a "spectrum" of oscillations 100 times more detailed than before.

The conclusions about the internal rotation of the Sun, and the consequent oscillations, are only the first part of a story which should now begin to unfold.

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Ipswich: Alliance thirsts for Labour's political oasis

By Richard Evans

Ipswich is a political oasis for the Labour Party in a county traditionally dominated by Conservatism.

The town's borough council has been controlled by the Labour Party with a healthy majority since 1979, while neighbouring district authorities in Suffolk remain firmly in the grip of rural Tories. Since October 1974 Ipswich has returned to the habit of electing the county's only Labour MP.

The town's voters continue their custom of being the odd ones out by taking part in the local government elections on May 6 while the rest of Suffolk's electors stay at home. A third of the council's 48 seats are being contested by 51 candidates. Labour, with a two-to-one majority on the council, is defending 10 seats while the Conservatives have six councillors seeking re-election.

Local government in the town is an exclusive preserve for the two main political parties, with no Liberal councillors and no defections to the Social Democratic Party. With Labour certain to retain control of the council, the spotlight is likely to focus on the performance of the Alliance, which is fielding candidates in all 16 wards.

Little has been seen or heard of the SDP in Ipswich since it was established there last June, while the local Liberal organization is in the process of being rejuvenated after a spell on the doldrums.

The Ipswich elections will show what impact, if any, the Alliance has on an area not renowned for political extremes and where the style of Labour leadership is acknowledged by political opponents to be moderate.

The outcome is difficult to predict. The Alliance is the big unknown — even to itself. There is also a streak of perverseness among Ipswich voters which saw them go against the national swing towards Thatcherism in May 1979 and double the parliamentary majority of their Labour MP, Ken Weetch, to nearly 4,000.

Labour, led on the council

by Mr Jamie Cann, a school teacher, aged 35, appears a confident of doing well. It is campaigning on its record in power with the slogan "Let's be proud of our town. Labour is improving Ipswich."

It boasts a record of no cuts in services, rate rises below the level of inflation and claims to have improved Ipswich "by prudent management".

Mr Cann, who prefers his party's style to be described as progressive rather than moderate, points in particular to his authority's housing record, what he calls "greening" of derelict sites, the improved bus services and the provision of sports facilities including an athletics track of international standard and two sports halls. "We take pride in that," he says.

Like her SDP partners, Ms Miernick is confident of Alliance candidates making a breakthrough and will be bitterly disappointed if they do not. "Personally, I would sob," she says.

Ipswich has not been a happy hunting ground for Conservatives in recent years. Mr John Shorten, leader of the Conservative group on the council for the past year, says he will be very happy if his party retains the seats it holds.

Conservative tactics are encapsulated in his view of Labour's record which he describes as "spend, spend, spend". He is critical of the subsidy for the town's bus service, which he says is £125m, and the cash spent on improving derelict sites.

But the main weapon used against Labour will be its decision to start building two swimming pools in Crown Street which he says will cost £16m over 21 years. In 1979 the town's citizens, rejected in a referendum a plan for a sports complex on the site.

"We are committed to keeping the rates down so there will be no increased burden on householders, industry or commerce, and no loss of jobs. We know it is possible, we have done it before," Mr Shorten says.

Mr Shorten believes the Alliance poses little threat to Conservative support. "Unless I misjudge the climate the Alliance will have no effect at all, because they have no experience in local government."

Tomorrow: Lothian.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

In a clear reference to the Alliance, he adds: "People talk about community politics. The Ipswich Labour Party has been dealing in community politics for the last 10 years and people don't forget things like that."

The SDP and the Liberals have produced a joint manifesto which concentrates more on promoting the Alliance as a political alternative, than on local issues. But they favour decentralization, greater consultation and more accessibility to council affairs, especially where housing and planning are involved.

Mr Keith Pettican, one of the SDP's most prominent candidates, agrees that his party has been quiet locally but says that is because its energies have been concentrated on setting up an organization... "and that will show now".

"On the passing returns so far I will be disappointed if the SDP does not get half of its eight candidates elected. We are looking to get a sufficient number of people on the council to form a base

on which we can build. We could be in for a great shock on May 6. We think Mr Pettican says. Mrs Pat Miernick, Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate for Ipswich, is organizing the party's campaign and has been mainly responsible for arranging a potential Liberal revival.

"We are not prepared to base our campaign on attacking other parties. We think their records are enough to persuade quite a number of people in Ipswich to vote for the Alliance," she says.

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Michael Costello: Two sides of the same coin.

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Protestants and Pope clash

By Michael Horton

Members of the Protestant Society for the Reformation of the Church of England, who are organising a protest at the Pope's visit to London, have been warned that they could be liable to arrest.

The Protestant Society, which is a small group of about 15,000 members, has been organising a protest against the Pope's visit to London, which is expected to take

Prior's assembly laws to be unveiled this week

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Legislation setting up Mr James Prior's elected assembly for Northern Ireland will be unveiled later this week amid indications of a cooling in Anglo-Irish relations.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. John Major, has announced that the Bill will amend certain sections of the 1973 Constitution Act despite official unionist demands that the Commons debate the White Paper outlining his devolution plans first. Yesterday Mr. Major announced that the Bill will be introduced to the Commons on Monday.

Mr. Major said his party would try to change the plan by tabling amendments when the Bill comes before the Commons. He also indicated that he would be in the party, leading himself and Mr. Gosh Powell, MP for South Down, would consider contesting assembly elections if invited to stand by their local constituency associations.

Following the 78-seat assembly will be a proportional representation and is expected to take place in the first two weeks of October.

Politicians in Ulster wait to see whether the mainly Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party is going to the polls but boycott the assembly. Mr. Prior has made it clear that whatever their eventual decision he will go ahead with his plan.

"Naturally, I hope they are going to take part and I hope they have now had a chance to examine the White Paper carefully and will see that the proposals are not unworkable. In fact, quite the reverse."

"I have to say that whatever happens, even if they decide to stay out, they will be the losers. I very much hope that, as it is, they will be the losers. I very much hope that, as it is, they will be the losers. I very much hope that, as it is, they will be the losers."

Mr. Prior's determination to press ahead if a source of

anger in the republic whose government has branded his scheme as unworkable. It is being argued that his insistence on going ahead contradicts the White Paper, which says that no system of government can be acceptable to either side of the community will work effectively.

In Dublin, Mr. Prior is being viewed as a man in a hurry whose initiative is being undermined by his own political ambitions. There is further annoyance that there was little real consultation on the plan.

It was expected that the Anglo-Irish process, initiated by Mr. Charles Haughey in 1980, would have meant more detailed discussions and there is disappointment at what is seen as the "flattering" and "fairly empty" nature of the process at the moment. The 11 paragraphs in his White Paper concerning the two identities within Northern Ireland, are being dismissed as little more than worthy verbal statements.

Although personal relations between Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and Mr. Haughey, the new Taoiseach, are said to be cordial, Mr. Prior's determination to go on with the British Government's plan is understood to have put something of a cloud over relations between the two countries. Plans are going ahead for the next summit between the two prime ministers which the Irish Government would like to be held in July.

Mr. Haughey's return to office was greeted with equanimity by the British who had worked well with him in the past and achieved a breakthrough in relations between the two countries in 1980.

Part of the emphasis put on the Anglo-Irish process by the different governments. Dublin tends to view it as a precursor to unity or a definite move in that direction while the British accept that nothing substantial is about to change and that it

will deal mainly with matters outside serious contention.

However, it is clear that Mr. Haughey is determined that the momentum by which he set great store when he was last prime minister will gather pace and he would like the parliamentary tier of the Anglo-Irish council to be set up sooner rather than later with clear functions on certain matters.

Two Irish Naval vessels and four aircraft scoured the Irish Sea today for signs of a submarine believed to have sunk a 70-foot fishing boat (the Press Association reports).

The five man crew of the £200,000 trawler *Sharelga* from Cloughthead, Lough, were picked up unhurt by sister ships after the *Sharelga* was hauled backwards at high speed for more than two miles before she capsized and sank.

The Ministry of Defence is investigating the incident. A spokesman said that they had had no reports which would indicate that a Royal Navy boat was involved.

If a submarine were involved, a British or an American boat would be the most likely culprit because of the relative proximity of their bases off the Clyde, in the Gareloch and Holy Loch.

Soviet submarines are also present from time to time attracted by the British and American bases, and the RAF and Royal Navy were tracking one in the Clyde approaches several weeks ago. That boat has now left the area.

Four men, arrested in the Irish Republic at the weekend after a terrorist murder near Ulster's border, appeared in a Dublin court yesterday. All four were charged at the city's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court, with possessing and having control of explosives and will appear again on May 10.



The Rev Christopher Hamel Cooke in the crypt of St Marylebone Parish Church.

Crypt may be medical centre

By Hugh Clayton Environment Correspondent

The dead are to be removed from a London crypt to make room for medical treatment of the living. Permission has been given for the transfer of 500 bodies from the crypt of St Marylebone parish church to a cemetery outside London. The last burial in the crypt was in the 1850s.

The Rev Christopher Hamel Cooke, the rector, said yesterday before launching a £1m restoration appeal that he hoped to use part of the crypt for a doctor's flat and surgery. The parish includes Harley Street.

The rector said that he wanted to start a unique partnership between medicine and the church in which patients would be able to receive physical treatment and spiritual comfort in the same building. "It is not our claim to be able to succeed where scientific medicine fails. The church ministers to the sick in partnership with the medical profession," he said.

Mr. Hamel Cooke said that he knew of a doctor who was a lay reader and was eager to open the crypt surgery. "He will not ram religion down their throats," the rector said. The restoration plan for the early nineteenth century church includes purchase of a new organ for £100,000.

The church has a famous choir and is often used by the neighbouring Royal Academy of Music. The present decrepit organ was damaged by flooding 17 years ago and was originally built from two large organs.

Architects have advised the rector that some pieces of carved masonry have been so eroded that they constitute an increasing hazard to passers-by from falling fragments. Scaffolding was erected by the church yesterday for cleaning and replacement of the stone facings.

Britain to stage arts festival in New York

By Christopher Warman

The largest British arts festival to be held outside the United Kingdom is to take place in New York next spring and summer to celebrate the bicentenary of the signing of the peace treaty which ended the Revolutionary War of 1776-1783.

The huge project, "Britain Salutes New York," was announced simultaneously in New York and London yesterday. It will range from dance, theatre and visual arts to crafts and film at more than 50 venues in New York, and will be the city's first international arts festival.

The festival has been conceived and funded by British and American companies on both sides of the Atlantic, and £2.5m (£14m) has been raised to finance it.

Among the exhibitions will be the Hans Holbein collection from Windsor Castle which the Queen has consented to lend abroad for the first time.

Paintings by John Constable and a definitive Henry Moore retrospective will be on show at the Metropolitan Museum, and the Royal Academy is sending an exhibition to the National Academy of Design.

The performing arts programme includes the Royal Ballet at the Metropolitan Opera House, and the Academy of Music. The Fields at the Lincoln Center, and the Fires of London, Monteverdi Choir, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Contemporary Dance Company have been invited to participate.

Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy, who with Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the Royal Opera House, heads the British advisory committee for the festival, said yesterday: "On April 13, when the festival opens, New York will be treated to the most ambitious celebration of British arts, culture and life ever held outside the United Kingdom."

PC bitten as woman's furniture is seized

A woman was carried screaming from her home while a bailiff removed her furniture for a debt she did not owe, Inner London Crown Court was told yesterday.

Miss Angela Rhoden became violent as she tried to explain to the sheriff's officer and a policeman that the debt had nothing to do with her and bit a constable as she was dragged to a police station.

Rhoden, aged 21, a student of Gipsy Hill, Norwood, south London, was given a two-year conditional discharge after admitting causing actual bodily harm to Constable Stephen Harrington.

Mr Terence Munyard, for the defence, said the debt had been incurred by a man who gave her address without her permission. When he defaulted in his payments a writ was issued against Rhoden's goods.

Mr Munyard said the thought of having all her property taken away for a debt she had nothing to do with caused her tremendous distress. She became increasingly upset and demanded that the men should leave. But the entire contents from her home were removed, even though Rhoden produced receipts to prove that the furniture was hers and not the property of the defaulter, who had never lived at that address.

Miss Edwina Mansell, for the prosecution, said the bailiff had tried to explain that he was obliged to activate the warrant issued by the High Court.

But Rhoden continued to behave violently and was told that if she did not calm down she would be arrested.

"She was carried bodily to the police station screaming and struggling."

Judge Bennett said: "I am prepared to accept that an extremely stressful situation. The writ was later rescinded and Rhoden's furniture returned."

Inflation 'punishes' 4m low-paid

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

More than four million full-time adult workers are having their standard of living further reduced because they are low paid, according to a report published today.

Because they spend more on essentials, including housing, fuel and transport, the low-paid experience higher inflation rate than other income groups.

By the end of last year, the living costs of the lowest-paid households had risen by 14½ per cent, compared to the 12 per cent inflation rate recorded by the retail price index (RPI).

The gap between the poorest households and the rest is likely to get bigger, the report says, because rent and rates, fuel prices and fares are all increasing while falling interest rates will reduce the cost of living for the higher paid.

The report is published jointly by the Civil and Public Services Association and Low Pay Unit, which also produces a monthly low-pay price index to measure the impact of inflation on the lowest income group.

Mr Chris Pond, director of the Low Pay Unit, said yesterday that 4,185,000 full-time adult workers were earning less than £85 a week. The gap was widening, he said, because wages were needed to give a family of two adults and two children the same income as their national entitlement on supplementary benefits, and it represents the official poverty line. The total included 175,000 non-industrial civil servants.

Unemployment among the young is rising faster than among adults in spite of falling wage rates over the past five years. That is shown in a new analysis published today by the Unemployment Unit.

The unit says the figures, drawn from official sources, disprove the belief that young people are pricing themselves out of jobs.

Between 1976 and 1981, hourly rates for males aged 21 and over fell from £5.8 per cent of adult rates to 5.7 per cent. Over the same period, the unemployment rate for young males increased by almost 60 per cent. Young women experienced an even higher increase in the unemployment rate over the same period, although their hourly rates fell from 5.7 per cent of the adult rate to 5.4 per cent.

The unit says the figures reinforce research findings of a Department of Employment of a negative relationship of youth and adult earnings to youth unemployment during the 30 years from 1948 to 1978. That study said that variations in youth unemployment "do not appear to have any systematic relationship with changes in the relative earnings of young people."

Protestants and editor clash on anti-Pope rally

By Michael Horsnell

Leaders of the Protestant Reformation Society, which is organizing a rally in Trafalgar Square on May 29 against the Pope's visit, clashed yesterday with the editor of the *Church Times*, the leading Anglican newspaper, because he refused to publish a four-page inset advertising the rally.

The inset includes a cartoon attacking the Pope's visit and offers what its authors describe as an alternative view to the "unqualified welcome" the newspaper is giving to the papal visit.

About 15,000 copies have been distributed with the *Church of England Newspaper* and the *English Churchman*, both of which circulate among Anglican Evangelicals, and another 50,000 have been published by the society for private distribution and insertion in the *Church Times*.

Dr Derek Scates, the society's assistant general secretary and co-author of the inset, said: "This is a question of the paper's Anglo-Catholic ancestry showing through. The *Church Times* has already carried a British Council of Churches advertising feature welcoming the papal visit. I am very disappointed that a Church of England organization cannot now carry an alternative view."

Joint campaign to fight school vandals

From a Staff Reporter Cardiff

Police and education authorities in south Wales launched a campaign yesterday to curb vandalism and destruction in schools which costs ratepayers hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. In extreme cases, whole classrooms have been destroyed by arson, and in other instances schools have been closed so that damage can be repaired.

The authorities hope that through the scheme called "operation schoolwatch", young people will be encouraged to keep watch over their schools during term and holiday time.

In mid Glamorgan the annual cost of vandalism is almost £500,000 and in south Glamorgan the repair bill this year will be about £65,000. South Glamorgan has already spent an additional £20,000 this year on security measures in schools.

In Gwent, where school vandalism has cost more than £250,000 in a five year period, children are offered rewards if their information leads to a successful prosecution.

Mr E. Curry-Jones, chairman of south Glamorgan's education committee, said the campaign was "not a sniping exercise." He added: "Money spent repairing vandalism means less available for school books and equipment."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Authority fights £15m sewer plan

The North West Water Authority may have to spend £15m to stop river pollution if local residents win a court battle (Our Manchester Correspondent writes).

Five householders brought summonses against the authority under the Public Health Act alleging that a stream which runs through south Manchester caused a statutory nuisance.

Mr Stephen Sauvain, for the residents, told Manchester city magistrates yesterday that a pumping station on the stream which runs from Gorton to Chorlton, could not cope with the flow of sewage, so that the stream was filled with untreated sewage and in hot weather gave off an offensive odour. The authority admitted the offences and faces a possible fine. It has started renovating the pumping station and is fighting a proposal by the residents who want it to build a new sewer which could cure the problem at a cost of £15m. The proposal could be included in a nuisance abatement order against the authority. The case continues.

Oxfam worker took coins

An Oxfam worker stole £60 worth of foreign coins which had been sent to a Blue Peter appeal to provide freshwater pipes in Lesotho, a court heard yesterday.

Garry French, aged 19, of Orchard Way, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, admitted stealing the coins, which he was sorting at Oxfam's Bicester warehouse. He was fined £25 and ordered to pay £16.25 compensation.

Three colleagues who admitted receiving the coins were each fined £20 by Bicester magistrates.

Bail offence fine for Sophie Cordle

Miss Sophie Cordle, daughter of Mr John Cordle, the former Conservative MP for Bournemouth East, was fined £10 yesterday for failing to answer bail on a prostitution charge.

Miss Cordle, a secretary, aged 24, was arrested on a non-appearance warrant on Sunday. She spent the night in a police cell before appearing at Marlborough Street Court. She is charged with soliciting in Park Lane, Mayfair, on March 8.

Children die in house fire

Cary Grainger, aged five, and his sister Kathy, aged two, died after fire swept through their house in Cumbrin Gardens, Newton Aycliffe, co Durham, yesterday.

Mr David Grainger, their father, jumped from the blazing house just before firemen rescued his son Paul, aged 10 months.

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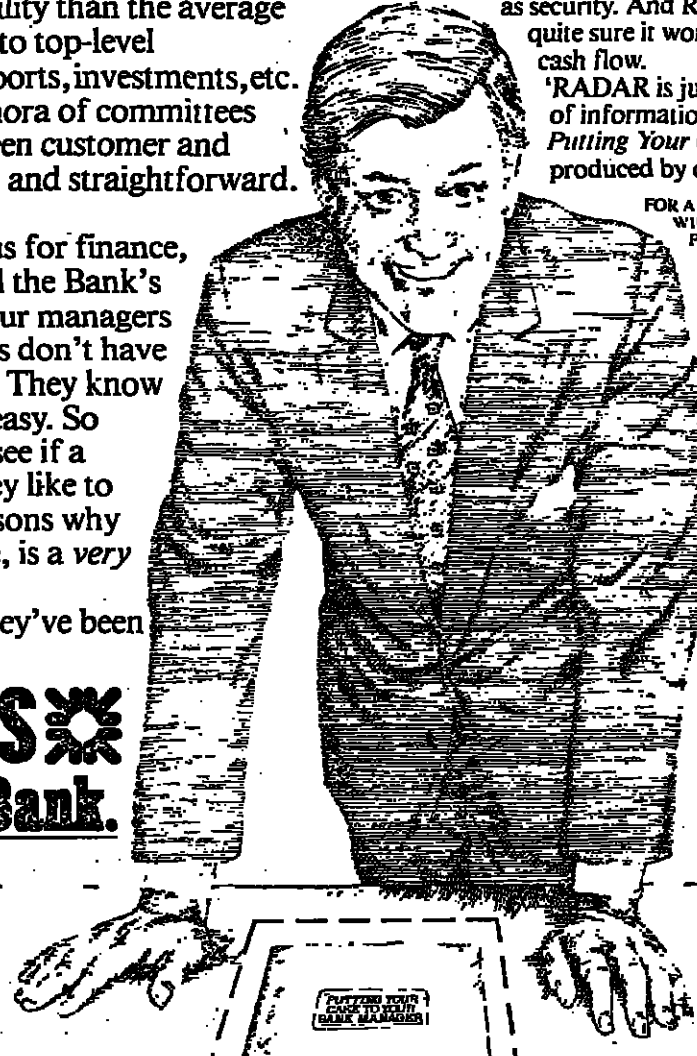
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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Adventure recruits report in

The first group of young people to join the Government's military-style adventure training scheme reported for duty yesterday. About a dozen youths assembled at RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, to be fitted out for a fortnight's course in physical education. They begin their course in earnest today.

The initial number here is small because we are just getting the course organized. It is likely to increase to about 40 in the next few weeks," an RAF spokesman said.

Atlantic fares 'to stay level'

There will be no further rises in Atlantic air fares this year, Mr Edward Acker, chairman of Pan American World Airways, predicted in London yesterday. Fares could be expected to take their usual seasonal drop in October, but not by the 50 to 60 per cent by which tourist fares to the United States were cut last November, precipitating the collapse of Laker Airways. (Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent, writes).

Six face £26m fraud trial

Six men charged in connection with an alleged plot to defraud the Iranian Government in a £26m bogus arms deal, were yesterday sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

They included Benham Nodjoumi, aged 37, an Iranian company director and a former member of the late Shah's secret police, who was committed in custody from Marylebone Magistrates' Court. His five co-defendants were granted bail, totalling £32,000.

Heart man dies

Mr Clive Wagstaff, a miner, aged 45, of Waterloo Street, Bramley Vale, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, has died at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, nine days after undergoing a heart transplant operation.

Civil servants' 13% pay claim brushed aside

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Government brushed aside the Civil Service unions' 13 per cent pay claim in the yesterday in the most uncompromising defence it has yet made of the use of market forces to determine public sector pay.

The Treasury told the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal that the claim, which also serves a minimum increase of £12.50 a week, would add nearly 15 per cent to the pay bill and cost more than £600m.

Its submission to the tribunal, chaired by Mr David Calcutt, QC, suggests that given the Civil Service's current ability to recruit and retain staff "it could have been argued that no increase in pay was needed at all in the circumstances of 1982."

The Treasury, whose £170m offer ranges from nil to 5.5 per cent, said it acknowledges that there is a need to motivate staff and to deal with problems of keeping trained staff which, "while diminished", still exist.

The government team said, however, in its submission that evidence on retraining and recruitment of staff — which in some cases has doubled during 1981 — points to a need for "only a very moderate increase."

The Treasury submission rejects the union's demand for special help for the low paid and adds bluntly: "The Government does not consider that the pay of civil servants, or any other group, should be determined by the needs of the individual. Pay is a matter for the market place and social needs are the province of the social security system."

Both sides believe that the tribunal, whose opening hearing in London yesterday was attended by about 200 militant civil servants, could report as soon as Friday.

Recourse to arbitration was provided for in the settlement which ended the 21-week strike of civil servants last year, though the Government made it clear that Parliament could be asked to override the tribunal's findings.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, told Mr Calcutt yesterday that a finding in favour of the Government's market forces offer might "undermine" the union's position towards the present inquiry under Sir John Megaw into a future method of regulating service pay and "prejudice their outcome."

The Treasury submission, drawn up by a team led by Mr Peter Le Cheminant, Under Secretary, says that if the tribunal follows the pattern of the past with a flat rate approach taking no

account of the difficulties of recruiting and retaining staff "there would be a growing mismatch between the pattern of pay rates and current management needs."

The tribunal is reminded in the Treasury evidence of the pay offers made to other public service groups, including those to the nurses and teachers and is told: "The pay settlement for the Civil Service could therefore have an economic importance extending well beyond its direct cost."

The Treasury said that the "realism" of its offer, which ranges from nothing for 65,000 civil servants to 5.5 per cent for 240,000 or nearly half the service, is "wholly compatible with the high regard in which the Government holds the performance of the civil service."

Mr Kendall told the tribunal yesterday that it had become the "custodian of industrial relations in the Civil Service". The union evidence said the 530,000 white collar civil servants were looking to the tribunal to prevent "the unfair and discriminatory treatment" implied by the offer.

The evidence points to the statement at a meeting with the union last April by Lord Soames, then Lord President of the Council, that comparisons with outside pay "would naturally have a role to play" and that it was not the Government's intention to allow civil servants' pay to fall behind.

The unions claim that the present offer is a "denial" of comparability and accuses ministers of a "deliberate failure to honour government assurances" given in 1981 which, it says, formed much of the basis for ending the strike. The offer reflected "a crude attempt to divide and rule" by differentiating between groups.

The union evidence says that the offer would mean that civil servants would have seen their living standards decline between 1980 and 1981, a two year period since April 1980.

The decision to award nothing to most staff under 21 on pay scales related to age is to reflect an "arbitrary view that young people are overpaid".

The Treasury, by contrast, says that the Government has heeded market forces and management factors including increased rewards for skill, experience, and responsibility, all of which factors are necessary for a "more efficient Civil Service."

The Government also has a wider duty "not to spend more money than is necessary" as a "vital contribution to the economic health and prosperity of the nation."



Former dancer is North's first black headmaster

Mr Carlton Duncan, who yesterday became the first black headmaster in the north of England, with some of his pupils at Wyke Manor Upper School in Bradford (Our Leeds correspondent writes).

Mr Duncan, who is 41 and Jamaican-born, came to Bradford from Coventry and had recently served on Lord Swan's committee of inquiry into the education of ethnic minorities. Ten per cent of

the pupils aged between 13 and 18 at Wyke Manor Upper School are black.

Mr Duncan was a professional dancer for 10 years before joining the teaching profession in 1972.

As he looked around the 1,000-pupil comprehensive school yesterday, many children and staff asked him about the health of his wife, Satinder, aged 24, who is expect-

ing test-tube twins in September. She became pregnant after receiving treatment at the Cambridge clinic of Mr Patrick Steptoe.

Mr Duncan said of his appointment yesterday: "I see this job as a challenge. At the moment, I am finding my way round and meeting everyone. I have some new ideas for the school which I shall consider when I have settled down."

Noise health warnings sought

By David Nicholson-Lord

Insurance companies' display advertisements may soon carry health warnings on the effects of noise, if a protest group's campaign succeeds.

The chairman of all Britain's leading insurers are being asked to include the warning, free of charge, on advertising and company literature.

The text, supplied by the Noise Abatement Society, says noise "can seriously damage your health" and adds: "Don't make unnecessary noise yourself. Don't accept it from others. There are laws against noise. Use them."

The society's appeal coincides with today's opening of the biennial congress of the International Association against noise in Vienna. There are expected to be strong protests there about the alleged failure of governments to legislate adequately on noise and about what are seen as unrealistic standards.

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Surprise choice as principal

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Dr William Taylor, director of the London University Institute of Education for the past nine years, is the university's unexpected choice for the much-sought-after post of principal, the chief administrative and financial officer of London University.

His appointment, in succession to Mr Hamish Stewart who retired in July 1981 after five years in the post, is not expected to be announced before the next meeting of the university senate at the end of this month.

As principal, Dr Taylor, who is 51 and who until now has spent his whole career teaching, will be responsible for an annual budget of £200m.

The post, which is considered crucial to the university's future, attracted some unexpected and distinguished candidates, including Mr Geoffrey Crompton, former registrar of Oxford University and now Secretary of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals; Mr Dudley Fiske, chief education officer of Manchester; and Mr Geoffrey Lockwood, registrar of Sussex University.

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Yorkshire seeks US help on the buses

From Ronald Kershaw, Wakefield

American consultants are to study West Yorkshire's public transport system and suggest a cost-cutting programme which will not affect services.

Mr John Gummell, the county council leader, said the study would have national implications, being in mind the House of Lords' decision which led to the doubling of fares in London. Government plans to cut spending on bus subsidies and the problems of public transport elsewhere in Britain.

The first phase of the study will cost £122,000, less than a quarter of 1 per cent of this year's subsidy.

The company Booz, Allen and Hamilton, already has a team of five men in South Yorkshire and will produce the first reports in July. A decision on whether to extend the study will be taken after that.

The company has recently completed similar studies in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. Mr Gummell said the United States had more experience, than Britain, of bus transport decline and by drawing on it West Yorkshire could be five years ahead of the rest of the country in its approach to public transport problems.

He said he did not expect magic or instant solutions. There is no Midas touch in public transport, but this major study, coupled with public consultation, will show the most forward-looking passenger transport authority in the country.

Mr Gummell said the Government's expectation that fares should provide a high proportion of running costs is a recipe for decline in which fare increases were followed by passenger losses and reductions in service.

In West Yorkshire the system has reached a stage of crisis. In both 1975 and 1980 there were three fare increases. There had been fewer passengers and fewer services.

He said the Labour administration had inherited a huge deficit which it took over last year. Since then it had taken a series of measures to support the buses, including denying a supplementary rate and the number of passengers was now increasing.

Mr Gummell said the decision to make public transport in West Yorkshire would continue to cost the ratepayers a great deal of money. It was in everybody's interest that all possible savings were considered.

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Anti-oil slick squadron set up for £780,000

Government plans to fight a chemical war against oil pollution, say British contractors were announced yesterday.

The Department of Trade's Marine Pollution Control Unit, which is responsible for dealing with oil slicks, is setting up a squadron of eight aircraft based in Scotland and England on permanent standby. They can be airborne at 30 minutes' notice by day and in two hours at night.

Rear Admiral Michael Stacey, the unit's director, said yesterday that the bases were at Southend, Exeter, West Freugh near Stranraer and Kinloss. The aircraft to be used are six British Nimrod Islanders and TCs which have been adapted for low level spraying of chemicals.

The Southend-based crop spraying firm of Harvest Air Limited will be the contractor. The annual cost of the service will be £780,000.

Slump in zoo visitors as society loses £1m

The number of visitors to Regent's Park Zoo, in London, dropped by 21 per cent as the London Zoological Society lost more than £1m last year, it is revealed today.

The drop in the number of visitors is described in the society's annual report as a serious and entirely unforeseen rate of decline.

The society's other zoo, Whipsnade, also suffered despite its lavish fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Visitors there were down 2 per cent in 1981. The decline is blamed on the recession and poor weather.

The society reported an operating loss of £1,522,000 last year, but Lord Zuckerman, the president, said a day at the zoo was still a favorite family outing.

He pointed to recent surveys showing the two zoos

are still popular. A poll of 263 south-east households showed that in 25 per cent of the homes at least one person had visited a zoo in the last three years.

In another survey of 1,000 homes around Britain the figure was one in seven. This indicated that parents still considered taking their children to the zoo an essential part of their education, he said.

Lord Zuckerman admitted that higher entrance charges could have priced zoos out of the market, but confirmed that the Government had agreed to a big grant to help the society through its difficulties.

He dismissed claims that wildlife programmes on television had killed the public's appetite for seeing animals in zoos.

Dr William Taylor, budget of £200m a year

Architecture

By Charles McKean, Architecture Correspondent

The great and glorious having had their previous, the Barbican Centre is now settling down to its role of producing art for the masses; the masses, that is, who manage to find the entrance, or are not intimidated by tramping through that austere and rather alien housing development in a violent, micro-climatically generated wind.

Entering from what might be called the "parking level", one's instant reaction is that the complex is an underground air terminal. Indeed, the British Airways' clock and the bank are there, suitably visible to the left, to confirm that impression. The general level of non-specific space, and somewhat characterless opulence, sliced about by the only-to-necessary direction signs reinforce the connexion. Consequently one's whole judgment of the complex is coloured by what one feels about air terminals. If you like them, you will probably be puzzled at the absence of the bookshop, the souvenir kiosk and duty free supermarket. If you do not, then you will have to work hard to suspend judgment.

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the pupils aged between 13 and 18 at Wyke Manor Upper School are black.

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Terminal orthodoxy at the Barbican

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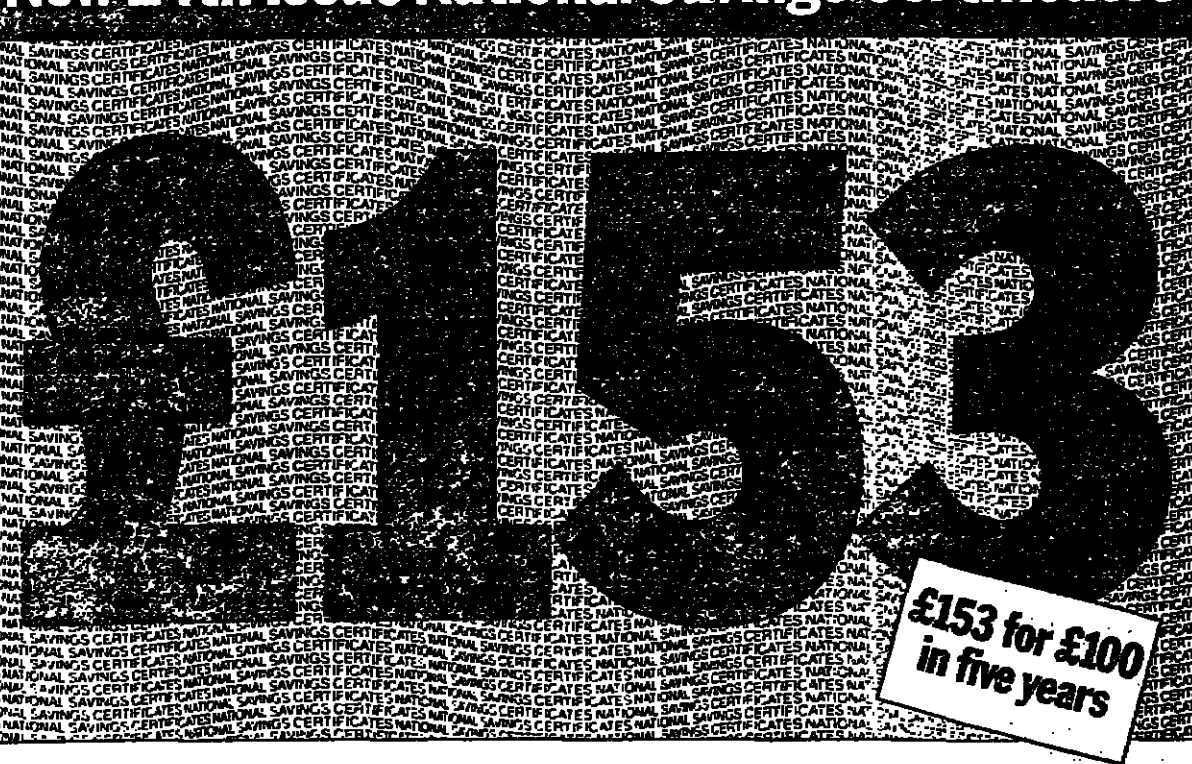
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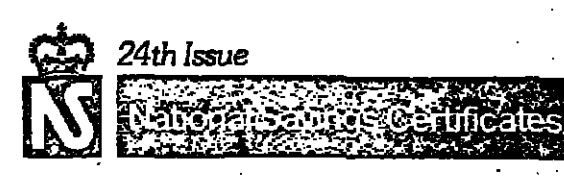
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The interim rates — once you have held the Certificate for 12 months — are still good.

Get full details from the leaflet at post offices or banks.



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Yorkshire seeks US help on the buses

From Ronald Kershaw Wakefield

American consultants are to study West Yorkshire's public transport system and suggest a cost-cutting programme which will not affect services.

Mr John Cunneen, the county council leader, said the study would have national implications, being judged by the House of Lords doubling of fares in London and the problems of public transport elsewhere in Britain.

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The first reports will be made in July. A decision on whether to accept the study will be taken after that.

The company has recently completed similar studies in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. Mr Cunneen said the United States had more experience than Britain in urban transport decisions.

By drawing on a study of Yorkshire could be far ahead of the rest of the country in its approach to public transport problems.

He said: "We do not expect magic or instant solutions. There is no Midas touch in public transport, but a major study, coupled with public consultation, will make us the most forward-looking passenger transport authority in the country."

Mr Cunneen said the Government's expectation that fares should provide a high proportion of running costs had led to a cycle of decline in which fare increases were followed by passenger losses and reductions in service.

In West Yorkshire the system had lurches from boom to bust. In both 1975 and 1976 there were fare increases. There had been fewer passengers in 1976.

He said the Labour administration inherited a huge deficit which took over £100,000 a week. Then it had taken a series of measures to improve the buses, including supplementary rates and a number of passenger services.

When decisions were made on transport it was a matter of ratepayers' money. It was not an interest-free loan from the savings bank.

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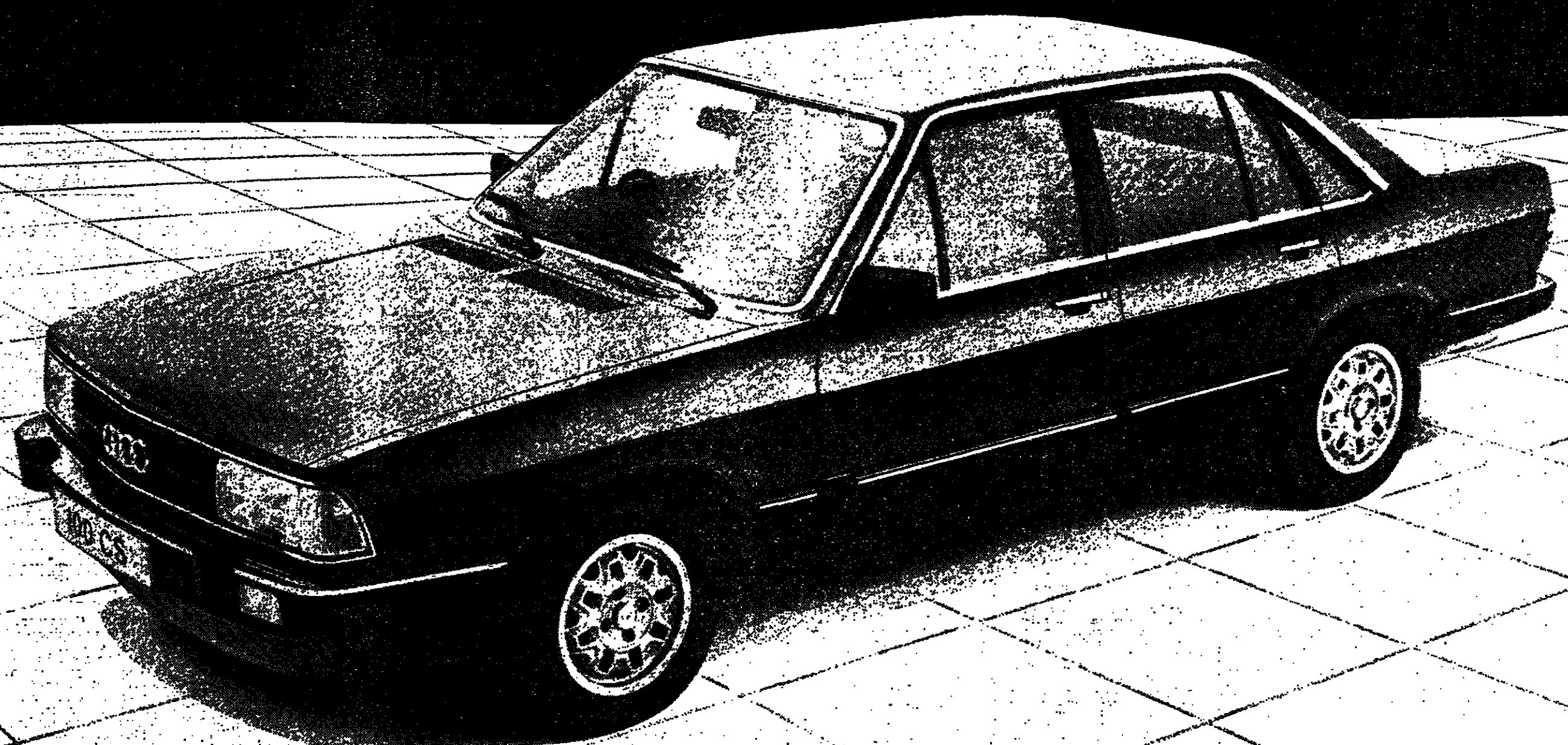
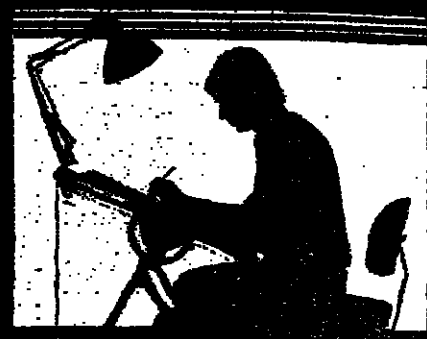
Mr Cunneen said the Government's expectation that fares should provide a high proportion of running costs had led to a cycle of decline in which fare increases were followed by passenger losses and reductions in service.

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WHAT COULD YOU ADD TO 100 WITHOUT MAKING IT BIGGER?



Anti-oil slick squadron set up for £780,000

The Home Office has announced plans to set up a special anti-oil slick squadron to deal with major oil spills.

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There's a lot of room in an Audi 100. Room for people. Room for legs. Room for luggage. But how much room for improvement? The Audi 100 CS has absorbed a long list of refinements without sacrificing an inch of its wide appeal. Starting under the bonnet, its 5-cylinder, 136bhp engine has fuel injection and electronic ignition. The body is distinguished by a full-width

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Brandt oratory fails to rouse half empty hall

From Patricia Clough, Munich, April 19

Willy Brandt, the Social Democratic chairman, tried to rally his divided and unpopular party with the appeal "let us start again".

He opened the party's two-yearly national congress with a call for a new sense of direction for a new chapter of social reforms and for social discipline.

He told his pacifists that there was "no other way" to disarmament than the Nato station-and-negotiate missile policy. But he drew fire from all his famous conciliatory talents to try to bring members together again.

"I ask us all," he cried, "for a great new effort. Let us dare to rally forward." The Congress, he said, must be "a congress of Social Democratic renewal."

But whether it was simply the inhospitable atmosphere of the vast covered Olympic arena where he was speaking or whether the crisis in the party is too far gone, Herr Brandt failed to electrify the 440 delegates as he once could do so well.

His two-hour speech which blazed through the vast arena, half empty, half full, and lacked inspiring proposals. Afterwards delegates stood and applauded but there were no cheers.

Herr Brandt said he shared many of the concerns of the peace movement and roused the strongest applause when he spoke of the "insanity of the contradiction between the arms race and world hunger."

He said he feared "the illusions of those who wanted universal disarmament" and said they were "out of touch with reality." And I fear more the irrational consequences of unavailability of disarmament afterwards. The policy of détente, he said, had not failed.

Russians go it alone under the sea

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, April 19

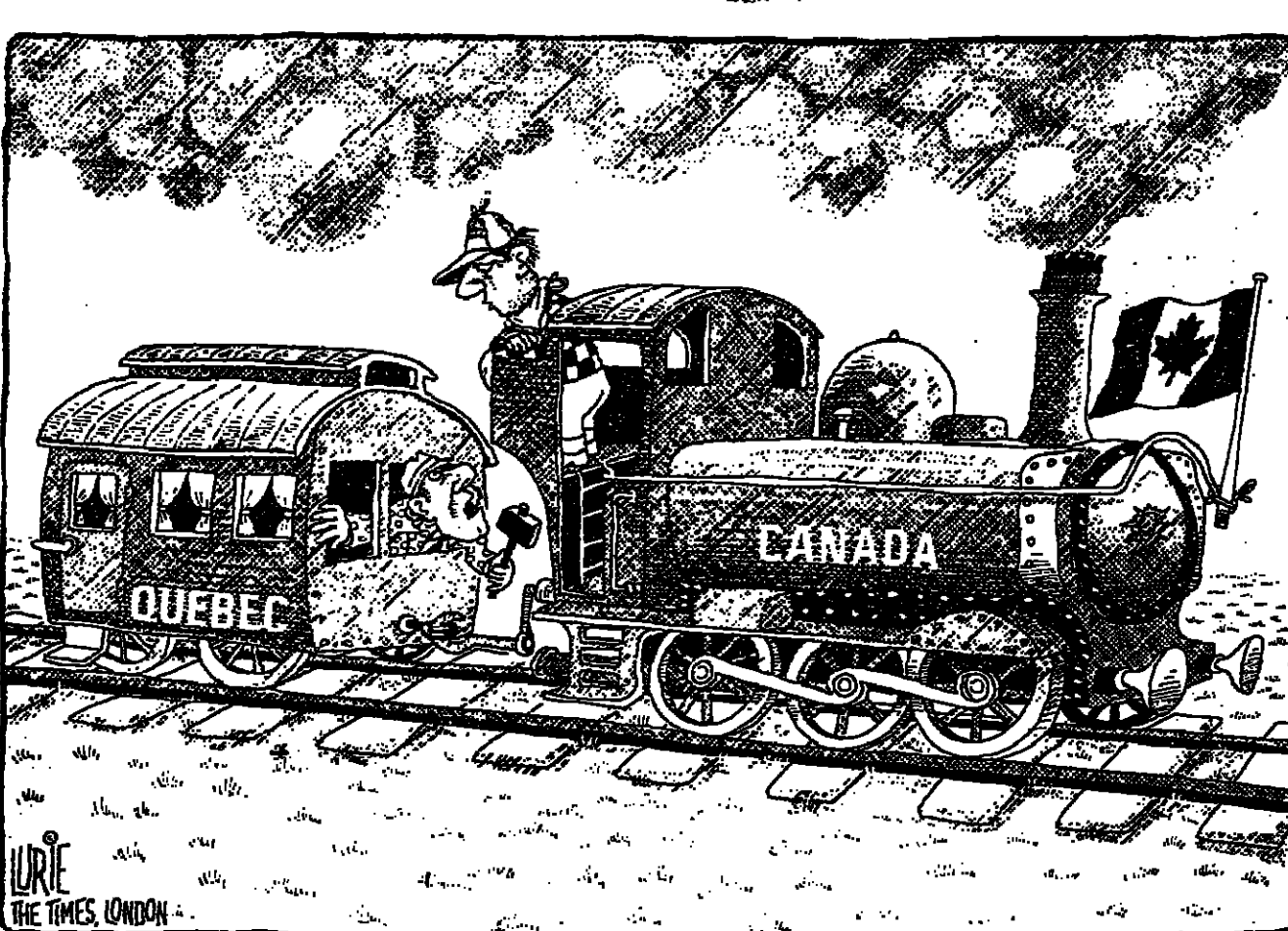
The Soviet Union has issued a decree allowing Soviet organizations to exploit mineral resources on the ocean floor outside territorial waters. The move has been officially described as a response to American attempts to change the draft convention on the Law of the Sea.

The decree, issued at the weekend by the Supreme Soviet, allows state enterprises to seek permits to prospect for resources beyond the limits of the continental shelf and lays down rules for exploitation. These deal with the setting up of off shore rigs, pollution control, observance of international law and freedom of navigation, and include regulations governing any joint ventures with foreign companies.

The preamble to the decree says the Russians have been forced to take measures to protect their interests, since other countries have already begun unilaterally to exploit the seabed. The Soviet Union was still in favour of an international agreement, however, and would still press for a successful conclusion to the present convention.

Commenting on the measures, *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* said at the weekend that the draft law had taken eight years to negotiate and reflected a balance of interests that gave nobody unilateral advantage. It accused the Reagan Administration of going back on earlier American agreement and demanding fundamental revisions which would be imposed on many capitalist developing and socialist countries.

"American companies, in view of the unreliability of raw material supplies for the American industry, have started displaying a still greater interest in the possibility of extracting strategic raw materials from sea and ocean beds," the paper said.



"We want to separate and proceed independently."

Polish journalists vetted in 'good conduct' trials

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 19

The scene in the Polish newspaper office resembled one of those American television courtroom dramas of the 1950s, coyly subtitled "The case of the Howling Dog or Justice in the Afternoon".

At one end of the room sat four men soberly dressed, shuffling papers, scraping their chairs, coughing impatiently. Strategically positioned at a slight angle to the main table, another man radiates the curious blend of omniscience and omnipotence that comes from being both a journalist and a state-employed bureaucrat.

Facing the tribunal, there is a young rather nervous fellow, leaning respectfully forward in his chair: the candidate for "verification". This is the process of weeding out the ideological impure, the rotten apples in the journalistic barrel. So far, the tribunal system has been used mainly against Polish journalists and lawyers, though university lecturers fear that it might be soon used against them. According to *Solidarity* underground bulletin, 1,200 journalists have lost their jobs as a result of verification.

That seems, in the estimation of many journalists to be an exaggerated figure but certainly the combination of those ousted from their jobs by verification.

Those out of work because their journals are suspended. Those transferred from politics to sports departments — adds up to several hundred. *Gazeta Krakowska*, the Cracow party daily, alone lost 21 of its writing staff after martial law was imposed.

That kind of inquisition is "verification"? Those who go through it are generally told not to reveal details of the proceedings but, as the situation relaxes, journalists have been less than forthcoming in information about the tribunals. In the first weeks after martial law it was clearly a tough experience.

Articles written by the journalist were presented as a type of evidence for the prosecution, though of course the tribunal has no formal legal status. Casual statements made in the presence of colleagues-cum-informers are mentioned and dissected.

Particularly suspect were those who had covered the *Solidarity* congress in September 1981, presumably because of the danger of infection.

Nowadays the process has become calmer, more of a formality. Talking to a journalist who had just emerged much relieved from his verification, it is evident that a more offhand attitude now prevails. "They have got rid of who they want. The prospect of verification keeps people in line. People are afraid of challenging their editors or making a nuisance of themselves."

According to a journalist from a Polish news organization, there were four men on his tribunal which was chaired by a member of the Central Committee press department. Also taking part in the proceedings was his editor, simultaneously a journalist and a party official.

For the first 15 minutes, according to this journalist, he was not required to speak at all. His editor read out a glowing report on his virtues and of his political record. "We hope soon," he concluded, "to welcome him into the ranks of the party."

A hope, one need scarcely add, that has no basis in reality.

The first question to the candidate, a respected journalist in his news organization: "Why are you paid so much?" The editor answers for his employee: "This is a further sign of the industriousness of Mr X." The editor thus acts almost as a defence lawyer, a Perry Mason. He does not want to lose a good worker, nor does he want to lose face with him.

The candidate is asked to explain the relative weakness of *Solidarity* in his news organization. The candidate has a smooth reply: *Solidarity* thrived on the tension between employers and the workforce, there was now no such tension in his organization. The questions then proceed along the lines of where did *Solidarity* go wrong? What were they planning? The candidate gives the right answers. The session then closes.

The editor is told soon afterwards that his journalist has "passed" and the process is then repeated with other reporters.

Here then is the measure of ideological purity in martial law Poland. What counts is not a citizen's attitude to the government, to the Communist party, to the military authorities, but rather the degree of sympathy with *Solidarity*.

"Those who are not against us, are for us," seems to be the guiding principle in Polish newspaper journalism. Television reporters however, are subjected to much stricter questioning.

Swapo use mines in new attack

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, April 19

A trail of land mines has been laid by a large band of Swapo guerrillas which has infiltrated deep into Namibia.

As South African units continued a massive hunt-to-kill operation which began during the Easter weekend, a military spokesman said today that the mine-laying was a new tactic by Swapo (South West Africa People's Organization).

Brigadier Jan Kloppe said: "This is the first time that land mines have been encountered in the farming region," he said.

The Swapo force, estimated to be about 100 strong, has penetrated into the so-called "death triangle" bounded by the towns of Tsumeb, Tsesab and Oshana south of the Kavango homeland.

It is the largest incursion mounted by Swapo since South African forces carried out a series of raids against its bases in southern Angola and, according to the spokesman, indicates that the organization has been extensively re-equipped by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries.

As well as mines, the guerrillas are believed to have used Sam 7 anti-aircraft missiles and forcing South African aircraft and helicopters hunting them to use evasive tactics.

Security forces have lost eight men killed in the operation, six when an armoured personnel carrier was ambushed.

Two black children, aged seven and 11, were also killed in a mine blast during the weekend.

When Swapo forces have lost eight men killed in the operation, six when an armoured personnel carrier was ambushed.

Another farmer was badly injured in a separate mine blast and a young man in Pretoria and an army lieutenant was injured by shrapnel.

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Prisoners of conscience



Russia: Dr Sergei Kovalyov

By Caroline Moorehead, Dr Sergei Adamovich Kovalyov, a noted Soviet biologist, the field of cellular bio-physics, is serving a seven-year sentence in a corrective labour colony for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

Dr Kovalyov was a founder member of Dr Andrei Sakharov's Initiative Group for the Defense of Human Rights in the Soviet Union, and a member of the Moscow Amnesty Group.

Before his arrest in 1974 he had signed protests against conditions on labour camps and against the use of psychiatric hospitals to punish dissidents. He had also appealed publicly on behalf of individual prisoners of conscience and spoken out against the repression of religious minorities.

In December 1974 the KGB secret police searched Dr Kovalyov's apartment and came away with documents concerning human rights activities. He was arrested and tried in a show trial believed to have been a gross abuse of Soviet judicial procedures and to have violated the Helsinki Accord.

Reports suggest that Dr Kovalyov continues to work on human rights matters from inside the camp, and that he has repeatedly been punished by solitary confinement. His health is said to be bad: he suffers from headaches, bleeding gums and hypertension and is losing his teeth.

Spanish army takes over border control

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, April 19

Spanish Army units took up positions along the French border today to prevent illegal crossings. They were putting into effect one of the special anti-terrorist measures adopted by the Spanish Government after a weekend of violence in which Basque extremists took advantage of an apparent security lapse to blow up the country's most important automatic telephone exchange.

The escalation of terrorism which began with a bazooka attack in San Sebastian last Wednesday, has continued. Terrorists attacked a parliament of the Civil Guard at Eibar, near San Sebastian, with grenades and sub-machine guns, just before midnight last night. One civilian was wounded when police returned fire. He was hit by a stray bullet while the police were firing at the police barracks.

The mounting violence is related to a demand by ETA terrorists that the Government remove all forces of public order from the Basque country by the middle of next month.

An offer by the Interior Ministry of a 10m pesetas (€54,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the ETA gang who are involved in the offensive was broadcast throughout today on radio and television news programmes, and by late this afternoon authorities said there had already been considerable response.

Workers were still cleaning up the rubble at the site of the wrecked telephone exchange here. The broad street running in front of the exchange's skeletal remains as reopened to traffic this afternoon. Telephone services, with certain limitations, were restored in most of the capital today but inter-provincial calls could be made only through operators.

A data processing system used by banks and financial institutions was put back into service today, with some limitations, through the use of other memory banks. A team of architects said repairs to the five-storey reinforced concrete building would take about two months to complete.

The special measures adopted after an unusual Sunday meeting between senior Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, and key members of his Cabinet, included the cancellation of all leave for members of the armed forces and the public order forces, the assignment of military units to guard certain stations, and the use of army personnel rather than police, for border control.

Some of the measures were designed to free policemen from other duties in order to make as many of them as possible available for duty in anti-terrorist operations.

While not all aspects of the anti-terrorist operation were revealed, it appears to resemble closely the series of steps taken early last year to reduce the terrorist threat.

These reports may simply mean that the women are being transferred to other internment camps but two related developments indicate that a release is planned, probably next month. Archbishop Josep Claret, the Basque Primate, called at the weekend for the freeing of women prisoners, interned without trial.

This was an unusually specific appeal at a time when the Government is showing increasing readiness to talk with the Catholic church. Secondly, there are indications, from underground bulletins, that some women internees have been taken ill. May Day could thus be used as an occasion for an amnesty.

Conditions in the main women's internment camp at Gernika are said to be good, with hot and cold running water and adequate heating. A reporter from the near by township of Bialystok recently visited the camp and wrote a glowing report on it for the official press. He conceded, however, that there was considerable resistance in the centre with some prisoner singing anti-state anthems.

Freeing women internees would not only appease the church, it would also represent a relatively painless propaganda move for the authorities. Only a few women occupied important posts in the suspended *Solidarity* organization, so the risks of the released prisoners forming a rallying point for the opposition are slight.

Meanwhile, it is understood that Warsaw police have found the transmitter used to broadcast the illegal *Solidarity* radio bulletin last week. Apparently the broadcast had been tape recorded beforehand and then plugged into a primitive transmitter, *Rome: Archbishop Josep Claret is to visit Rome for consultations with the Pope on April 26. It was announced here today. — Reuter.*

Women internees likely to be freed

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw, April 19

Polish Authorities appear to be preparing the release of a substantial number of women internees according to unofficial reports coming from detention camps. Some military units have been told that they will soon be able to use holiday centres now being used as detention camps.

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Two faces of Basque nationalism baffle Madrid

From Harry Debelius, Bilbao, April 19

During the night several young men carefully taped a small package to the metal door of a solidly built transformer shed at Lezama, near Bilbao. Then they pulled back to a safe distance and, in the pre-dawn hours of Easter morning, pressed a button. Three towns and one Bilbao district were plunged into darkness.

A few hours later, in a vast fair pavilion in Bilbao, a balding, mustachioed man in a white vest and blue denim trousers, with a blue sash wound around his waist, lifted a 220lb cylindrical stone to his right shoulder steadily up and down with rarely a pause to catch his breath.

He hoisted it 102 times in 10 minutes before he stopped. Onlookers applauded and shouted *Gorri!*

Each in his own way, the stone-lifter and the bombers were doing the same thing: commemorating *Eguna*, the Basque National Day.

The stone-lifter and those of his compatriots with similar patience and determination were celebrating the centenary of the rebirth of Basque nationalism, through the midwifery of Sabino Arana, author and founder of the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV).

They were also celebrating the fifth Basque National Day, first organized in 1932 to show how mistaken Miguel Primo de Rivera, the Spanish dictator, had been when he said that Basque nationalism was dead.

The men who placed the explosive charge are members of the ETA terrorist organization, marking in their secessionist way *Aberri-Eguna* under the rule of Madrid.

That bomb was but a small sample of the violence which erupted later in the week, when ETA was to escalate its urban guerrilla war, firing bazooka shells in several cities and blowing up the country's most important telephone exchange.

Despite the nationalist fervour, more than half the population of the Basque region was not born there.

Most of the immigrants are from the depressed regions of Andalusia and Extremadura, attracted to the Basque country by its once buoyant but currently stagnant economy.

Even among the people whose ancestors were born in the region, there are many who cannot speak the ancient Basque tongue. Franco did not allow it to be taught, published, broadcast or used for official purposes.

Yet, so contagious is their love of the land — and so deep are the roots of those returned from exile — that even the children of many Andalusian immigrants are eager learners at the *Ikastolas* (schools) where all instruction is conducted in Euskera and *Bascois* (meeting houses and cultural centres sponsored by the dominant Basque Nationalist Party).

There was another, more commonplace, but nevertheless significant, activity on the Basque National Day: scuffles between demonstrators and riot police.

The demonstrations, involving no more than a few hundred persons in each case, were staged throughout the region by a pro-ETA political coalition, the *Herri Batasuna* (People's Unity), were sparked by the Madrid-appointed provincial governors' ban on *Aberri-Eguna* meetings.

It is impossible to overlook the violence in the Basque country, but while some people there abhor it, others try to justify it, claiming that Madrid tries to silence systematically even the most unassuming manifestations of nationalist sentiment. Moderates, as well as extremists, feel that the Basque country does not have enough control over its own affairs. The difference is in the way they react to that situation.

In the past few years, nearly all Basque political leaders have moved away from their previous somewhat ambiguous stand on terrorism. After the latest round of basco attacks and bombs, Señor Carlos Garaikoetxea, of the Basque Nationalist Party and the president of the regional government, issued communique condemning "any attempt to justify, or to diminish the guilt attached to these crimes which constitute a desperate attempt to provoke reactionary elements and sink democracy."

At the same time he expressed "the will to assume as soon as possible in Euzkadi the responsibilities and the authorities in police matters which the autonomous region is entitled by statute to assume."

Moderate politicians in Bilbao feel that it is a mistake to use the police against the more radical political forces, and it is a mistake to ban their meetings, unless there is a reasonable expectation that violence might occur.

Such a reaction by the forces which represent the central Spanish Government only lends credence to the extreme nationalists' present denunciations by "occupation forces". Worse still, abuse of force and instances of torture by police, the moderates explain, make excellent recruiting arguments for ETA.

Mauroy an unhappy man in the middle

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 19

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today attempted to arbitrate in the clash between M. Gaston Defferre, his Minister of the Interior, and M. Robert Badinter, his Minister of Justice, which broke out into the open last week over the extension of police powers.

True to his temperament, more inclined to conciliation than to laying down the law, the Prime Minister reminded the two men of their duty of solidarity. Government policy was decided in Cabinet and not thrashed out in public debate on the market place, as it has been too frequently since the Government took office, last June.

He also tried to placate both: the Minister of Justice, by confirming that the "security and liberty" law of the previous conservative Government, which sharply tightened up the powers of the police and the courts, would definitely be repealed by the end of the parliamentary session in June; and the Minister of the Interior by assuring him that the whole Government, including the Minister of Justice, shared his concern to ensure the security of Frenchmen.

The Prime Minister's Solomon-like mediation is likely to satisfy neither, and once again President Mitterrand will have to take in hand personally an affair which is much more than a conflict between two of the strongest personalities in the Government. It is a controversy which raises fundamental questions of policy, and threatens the cohesion and credibility of the left wing coalition in power since last summer.

Incidentally, it has dealt another blow to the realism of M. Mauroy, who already faces criticism not only in Communist ranks, which is natural, but also in Socialist ones for his concessions last week to employers over tax and other cost cuts.

It will not be the first time M. Mitterrand had to straighten out differences between members of the Government. The Socialist tendency to doctrinal debate waxes more fiercely when he is abroad, and his steady hand is removed from the tiller.

Last December, while on a state visit to Algeria, he had to still the controversy in Government and party over the "pause" in reforms called for by M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister. This time, no sooner back from Japan, he must restore the coherence of government policy over law and order and over its economic objectives.

The surprising concessions to employers in taxes and social costs have been widely interpreted on the left and on the right as a "pause" which dare not say its name, a sweetener to the realism which the setback of the left in the local elections last month called for: nothing short of a "social democratisation" of change.

The Communists have not been slow to condemn these "concessions" to employers, to point out that the progress was not achieved by compromise to the right. Even in the Socialist Party and some trade unions, concern is voiced that the Government has been too soft, giving a good deal away with only a vague assurance that the employers will respond by stepping up investment.

When Malaysians go to the polls on Thursday they will be voting in their country's most important election since independence, breaking the last slender connexion with the colonial past.

Daruk Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed, the Prime Minister, is seeking a mandate for a rigorous new style of government which has so far shown neither fear nor favour in attacking corruption and in adopting policies typified by an unwillingness to think along conventional lines or to compromise.

No one seriously suggests that he will not win the election, which has been surprisingly short of issues, but the poll results will indicate how far the policies of concession and compromise, which were the hallmark of the previous Government, may be abandoned.

The election is at both state and national levels, and an indication of the determination to break with the past can be seen from the dropping of no fewer than 59 candidates of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) coalition at national level. It is a measure also of the Government's confidence that it will at least retain its 133 seats out of the 154 seats in the Parliament.

The opposition is seeking to reduce the Government's tenure of two-thirds of the seats in the House and deprive it of the ability to amend the constitution at will.

Since independence in 1957 there have been hundreds of amendments to the constitution which the opposition has been powerless to resist. The Opposition fears these modifications might continue

Europe decides on equal summers for all

From George Clark, Strasbourg, April 19

Calling attention to the difficulties caused by travellers and transport operators because Britain and Ireland have different dates for the end of summer time from the rest of the European Community, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday backed the EEC Commission's Proposal for a uniform arrangement.

This would ensure that summer time will start on the last Sunday in March unless this is celebrated as Easter in one or more member states, in which event the summer-time will start on the previous Sunday. It will end on the second Sunday in October.

This year summer time will end on October 24 in Britain and Ireland, and on September 26 in the rest of the EEC.

Courtroom uproar after Begin minister convicted

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, April 19

Mr Aharon Abutzeira, the Israeli Minister of Labour, Welfare and Immigrant Absorption, was convicted in the district court here today of misuse of money from charitable funds he controlled when he was mayor of Ramat Gan before joining the Begin Government. He could receive a three-year imprisonment for theft and shorter sentences for lesser offences. Sentencing was deferred until Wednesday.

The conviction triggered a frenzied demonstration by hundreds of fellow immigrants from North Africa, who claim the minister had been a victim of ethnic discrimination. Demonstrators jamming the stairway to the sixth-floor courtroom chanted: "Sephardi state, Sephardi state" and "Abaron, king of Israel, lives on." In the courtroom, a spectator shouted: "This is a Dreyfus case, antisemitic and anti-Sephardi." Policemen hustled him, kicking and screaming, outside.

Tami, the ethnic party founded by Mr Abutzeira before the last general election, tonight passed a vote of confidence in their leader, who told them: "They'll not

break me." The party, with three seats in the Knesset, is part of Menachem Begin's ruling coalition, which has 60 of the 120 seats in Parliament.

Israeli law does not prevent a convicted thief from retaining his membership of the Government and Parliament. The Prime Minister is empowered to oust him from the Government and Parliament can vote to suspend his membership pending the outcome of an appeal. Such action would probably cause Tami to quit the coalition and bring down the Government.

If Mr Abutzeira loses his appeal and is sentenced to at least one year's imprisonment, Parliament can vote to expel him.

In court today Judge Victor Ostrowsky-Kohn said Mr Abutzeira, as mayor of Ramat Gan, had supplied false information in recommending a Ministry of Interior grant for a fund in memory of his late father, to help needy students. She said Mr Abutzeira and Mr Moshe Gabai, the treasurer, who was also convicted, used the funds like a "private estate". The largest fund went to themselves and their

political cronies rather than to the needy, she said.

Mr Abutzeira was indicted on May 24, the same day he was acquitted of an earlier charge of accepting kickbacks from inflated government grants to educational institutions when he was Minister for Religious Affairs in Mr Begin's previous government.

This was cited today by his supporters as evidence of a crusade against him by Jews of European stock, who dominate the Israeli establishment. They said the 44-year-old leader had been a rapidly rising political figure and "they wanted to clip his wings".

His supporters also claimed that the judge had been prejudiced.

Mr Abutzeira is the first Cabinet minister to be convicted of a crime, but highly placed officials previously jailed include a nominee for governor of the Bank of Israel, a member of Parliament and a former mayor of Rehovot and a director of customs.

A Prime Minister was also compelled to resign because his wife kept foreign bank accounts in a Washington bank. All were of European stock.

FALKLANDS CRISIS

Haig future may rest on peaceful solution

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 19

The outcome of Mr Alexander Haig's attempts to find a solution to the Falklands crisis is being seen in Washington as of critical importance to his own future as Secretary of State.

As the talks with the junta in Buenos Aires dragged on through the weekend, there was growing speculation that his tenure at the State Department would be thrown into question if he returned to Washington without having reached agreement on a peace formula.

At the same time, however, it was being conceded that if he was able to prevent an outbreak of hostilities between Britain and Argentina, his position within the Administration would be greatly enhanced.

Officials here have continued to remain silent about the progress of his mediation effort. However, the latest reports from Buenos Aires today indicated that a solution was beginning to emerge.

Mr Haig has been the target of a whispering campaign of criticism ever since he began his shuttle diplomacy 12 days ago.

First there was a series of leaks to the New York Times about a dispute with the White House over which aircraft he should use on his journeys between Washington, London and Buenos Aires.

White House officials said Mr Haig declined to fly in the first aircraft that was offered to him because it did not have any windows. Mr Haig's aides contended that it was not the lack of windows that concerned him, but that he wanted an aircraft with better communication facilities.

Last week BBC television news carried a leak that the United States was providing military intelligence and communications assistance to Britain. This was denied by the State Department.

The number of civilian ships in use has risen meanwhile to 28. Fifteen of them had been requisitioned and the others are under charter.

Meanwhile the Royal Navy is turning three of its survey vessels, the 2,733-ton *Hecla* and *Hydra* and the 2,945-ton *Herald* into casualty ferries which will be used to carry wounded troops to the big hospital ships including the requisitioned cruise ship *Uganda*.

The *Hydra* and the *Herald* are now at Portsmouth while



Occupation strategy: General Mario Menéndez, the Falklands "governor", speaking to his officers.

1,000 troops embark as more civilian ships are called up

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Nearly 1,000 more soldiers including the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, began embarking for the Falkland Islands yesterday as the Ministry of Defence continued to prepare a military option.

The paratroopers, together with engineers and artillery, are sailing on the *MV Norland* from Hull, and on the *Europic Ferry* (4,190 tons) requisitioned from Tyneside, which will begin boarding tomorrow at Southampton.

The Ministry also announced the chartering of the 15,974-ton *Anco Charger*, now at Portsmouth, from P & O and Ocean Transport and Trading, which own it jointly.

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Hecla has already left Gibraltar on its way to join the task force in the South Atlantic.

The paratroopers are the second battalion of the Parachute Regiment to leave for the Falklands. The 3rd Battalion is already on the *Caibarien*, the requisitioned cruise liner with the task force.

The presence of paratroops does not, however, necessarily reflect a plan to make a parachute assault on Port Stanley or elsewhere.

The two battalions are part of the Army's 5th Brigade, based on Aldershot, which is designated for military operations outside NATO.

Two more battalions, not so far identified, will take their place in 5th Brigade alongside a regiment of Gurkhas.

The additional troops raise the number of soldiers with the task force to about 2,500, on press reports that the Royal Marines are included.

But the task force would probably need many more men if it is directed to take Port Stanley by force.

The Ministry also confirmed that British Shipbuilders has been asked to accelerate the completion of the *Invincible*, the second aircraft carrier of the *Invincible* class, which is due to

enter service on the second half of next year. There is, however, understood to be no question of it joining the present task force.

Most of the Argentine fleet was still at sea yesterday, although well outside the Maritime Exclusion Zone around the Falklands.

Seven Royal Marines who spent three days in the Falklands eastern interior after the Argentine invasion were expected to arrive at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire today (from David Hewison).

The most left Montonides yesterday on a Royal Air Force DC10 accompanied by 22 Montonides in the invasion of South Georgia and 13 members of the British Antarctic Survey who were taken into custody in the same action.

The Ministry of Defence is expected to maintain a ban on press interviews at the Falklands at the RAF base.

At the request of the Uruguayan authorities, they made no statements in the press, although several sources said they were in the process of being released.

The British also captured the Argentine ship *General Belgrano* which was sunk by the British fleet before surrendering to the Argentine forces.

British imperialism attacked

From David Blow, Vienna, April 19

The East European press has roundly condemned British imperialism and United States power, politics in the Falklands dispute.

According to *Pravda*, the "Colonialism" one of the most disgusting products of imperialism policy, is to blame for the Falklands crisis. Britain is ready to go to war to keep one of its last colonies.

The British Conservative Government, its Prime Minister Thatcher and the bourgeoisie circles are responsible for the escalation of the situation, stubbornly seeking a military solution to the problem, apparently forgetting that Britain has long lost its imperial position.

The United States also pursued its imperialist policy, supporting the British and also economic interests. It should not be forgotten that the information on its oil resources in the area comes from American sources.

Radio Prague wrote that the Pentagon wanted to use the dispute to build a base on the Falklands. The base should not only control the access to Antarctica, which is regarded by the Pentagon as a strategically important area, but also the access to South Atlantic shipping lanes, especially to Southern Africa, which is the powerful circles in the United States are linked both by military and economic interests.

The conflict was not a matter of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands or Argentina, nor even of Great Britain, but first of all it was a matter of United States power interests.

The official Polish newspaper *Trybuna* said that the Falklands dispute is of great significance for the Polish fishing industry, with the annual catch totalling 80,000 tons last year, earning hard currency for the fishing fleet's maintenance.

According to PAP there were 42 Polish fishing vessels in the area when the crisis broke out. This explains the moderate but anxious comment in the leading Polish paper *Trybuna* that the crisis was a "test" for the Polish fishing industry.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Mugger shot by police

Paris Police shot dead a member of a gang of four youths who attacked two American tourists with knives near the Champs Elysees on Saturday night. The three-man police patrol, travelling in an unmarked car, arrested the other attackers who had been trying to steal cameras, a wallet and a bag from the tourists.

Vietnam pays human debts

Tokyo. — A large number of Vietnamese workers are being sent to the Soviet Union as "part of Vietnam's repayment of debts" to Moscow, according to the newspaper *Yomiuri*. Quoting Japanese officials and foreign diplomats, *Yomiuri* said Hanoi had sent about 10,000 workers to the Soviet Union as a means of covering a deficit in its foreign currency reserves. They are working at industrial compounds south of Moscow.

Peace team in Tehran

An Islamic peace team has arrived in Tehran, from the Iranian news agency reported. The team is headed by President Sakou Toure, of Guinea, and Habib Chir, of Tunisia. Secretary-General of the 43-member Islamic Conference Organization.

Eanes returns to Portugal

Luanda. — President Eanes of Portugal has returned to Lisbon after a four-day visit to Angola that included a two-hour meeting with Mr Sam Nujoma, the leader of Swapo. He said that Portugal was ready to contribute to a solution for Namibian independence.

Pagoda hit halted

Peking. — Engineers have stopped China's 1,000-year-old tower to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the 156ft Tiger Hill Pagoda of Suzhou, from tilting further for the first time since the seventeenth century.

Plugging bus crash

Tarbes. — Two people were killed and 30 injured when a bus carrying Spanish pilgrims from Lourdes collided with a lorry.

Two Australian ministers resign in customs affair

Canberra, April 19. — Australia's health and customs ministers resigned tonight over the Health Minister's failure to declare a miniature television radio-cassette to customs last October.

After five hours of discussions with senior ministers, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, announced he had accepted the resignations of Mr Michael MacKellar, aged 43, the Minister for Health, and Mr John Moore, aged 45, who as Business and Consumer Affairs Minister, was responsible for customs.

The affair has caused a new, potentially destructive crisis for Mr Fraser, who is already beset by economic difficulties including high interest rates, inflation and unemployment, which have caused the popularity of his Government to plummet.

Earlier this month Mr Fraser beat off a challenge to his leadership of the Liberal Party from Mr Andrew Peacock, the former Foreign Minister, who said he was resigning to pursue a career in business.

MacKellar, Brought in radio-cassette player.

weaken Mr Fraser's position and cause a further challenge.

Mr MacKellar said at the weekend that he failed to declare the \$250 (£142) portable colour television radio-cassette when he bought it into Sydney from Hong Kong. Mr Moore admitted being told of the matter by a senior member of his ministry and said he decided not to pursue it after reprimanding Mr MacKellar by telephone.

Mr Moore said he was "actively gunning" for him. It said that Mr George Shultz, former Treasury Secretary, and Mr Donald Rumsfeld, former Defence Secretary, were among names being mentioned as possible successors.

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Junta rules out Red Cross visit

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, April 19

Argentina has refused to allow an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the Falklands, to look after the welfare of civilians.

In its reply to the ICRC's request to visit, the junta said: "This is not necessary for the time being under present circumstances".

Officials said the ICRC would maintain contact with the Argentine authorities. Paulo Parra, President of the International Association Against Torture, today accused General Galtieri's regime of taking advantage of the crisis to settle scores with political prisoners.

Scottish trade unionists were yesterday alerted to the prospect of an early general election in the wake of the Falklands Islands crisis.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, has cancelled his appearance at the Scottish Trade Union Congress, due today, to be in Washington for political developments in the conflict with Argentina.

But last night, Mrs Helen Liddell, Secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, told delegates that the leadership of the Labour movement looked to the Scottish TUC as the first big union conference of the year "to give a lead, to take us into preparation for an early general election".

Branding the Social Democrats as a "force attempting to divide us", she said: "Even as we speak there is a possibility of a general election in not so many months. This is a country at war. Who would have thought it a year ago? It makes my blood run cold."

"Nevertheless, no fascist right-wing dictator will be allowed to dictate to the world how we run our affairs. Time is running out. We must strive to find a diplomatic solution to save the lives of those at risk."

A number of unions are putting together a strongly worded motion on the Falklands Islands issue for emergency debate but the first draft proved unacceptably weak to the left, which sees this crisis as a prize opportunity to attack both the Argentine junta and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet.

Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday that the invasion of the Falklands had "highlighted the folly of this Government's cuts in traditional naval expenditure" (Donald Macintyre writes).

The shark that got clean away

From John Witherow on board HMS *Invincible*

HMS *Invincible* continued exercises over the weekend in the shadow of Ascension Island, an inhospitable and barren rock which marks the final legging post in the 12-day voyage to the Falkland Islands.

Flying fish, their bodies glinting in the warm sun skidded over the waves before the bows of the ship, while members of the crew which in the quarterdeck caught and hauled fast, gleaming tuna on board which were later served up in the messes.

One seaman hooked a 5ft shark, but his rod snapped in three places and the fish disappeared into the dark water.

Ascension Island has proved a moment of respite from the long, hard slog south and it was the first land seen since the 12-day voyage. Supplies were ferried on board, slung in great nets beneath helicopters, from the airport which has witnessed the arrival of scores of glum Hercules transport planes.

It is essential to keep the fleet as far from home as possible. It makes my blood run cold.

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Argentina's other dispute Shadow of invasion over Beagle Channel isles

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The Beagle Channel dispute between Argentina and Chile centres on three small islands — Picton, Lennox and Nueva — which are of no great value in themselves. Their significance is that they are the last of the 12-day voyage to the Falkland Islands.

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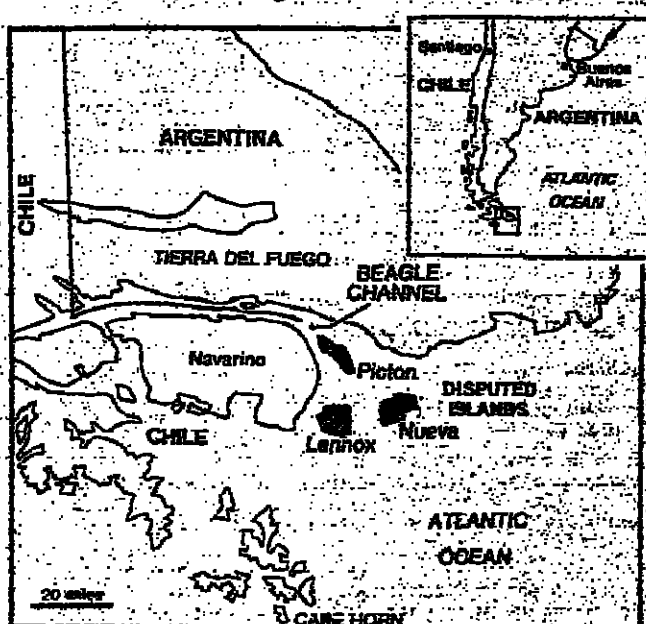
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British imperialism attacked

From David Blow
Vienna, April 19

The East European press has roundly condemned British imperialism and United States power politics in the Falklands dispute. The Czechoslovak press, under Rude Prasek, has been especially critical. It has also been one of the most vocal critics of the British policy, is to blame for the Falklands crisis. It is ready to go to war with one of its last

Conservative Prime Minister and the Conservative representation, the Conservative Party, is sharply attacking the British government's policy in the Falklands. It is apparently forgotten that the British government has long been a member of the United States.

The United States also has its own self-interests... It is forgotten that the United States has long been a member of the United States.

Prasek wrote that the British government wanted to build a base in the Falklands. "The British government is only concerned with its own interests... It is forgotten that the United States has long been a member of the United States."

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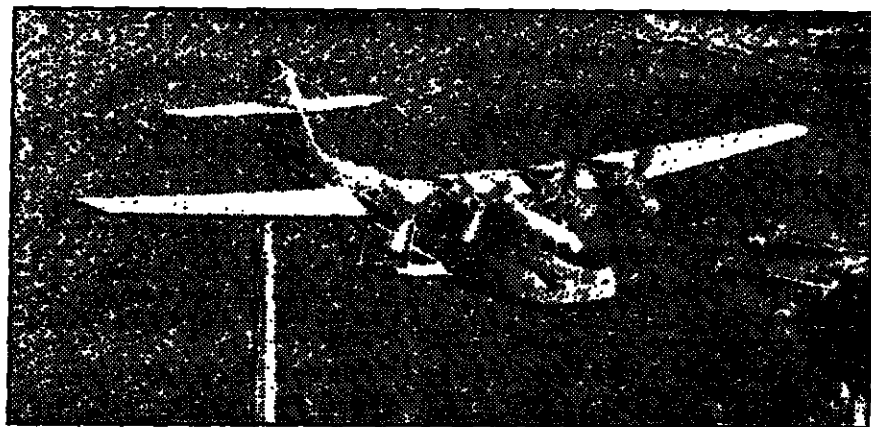
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55th Anniversary

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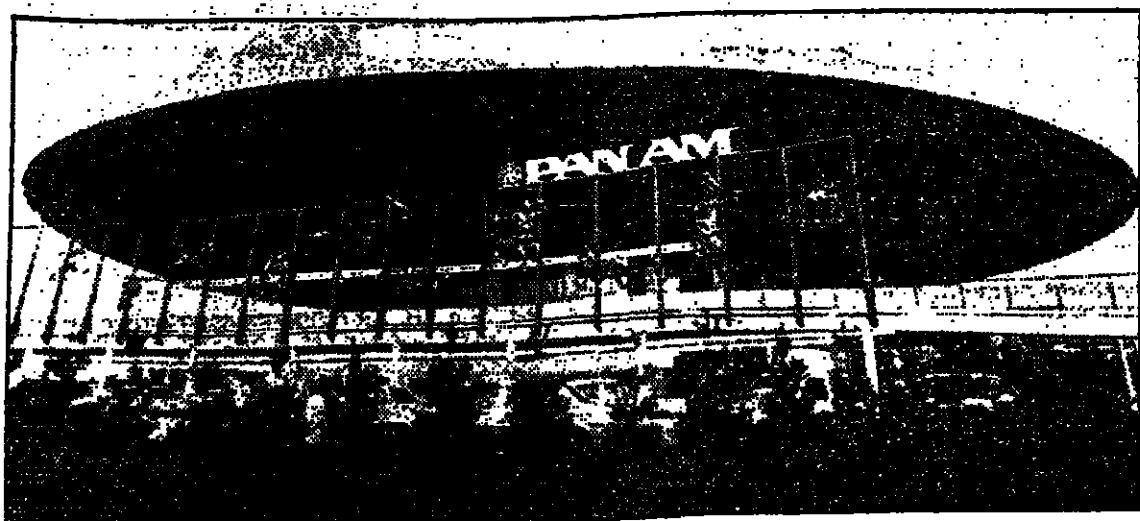
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The Pan Am Worldport, New York, is yet another example of the service you can expect from the airline that pioneered intercontinental air travel.

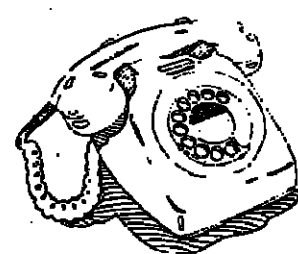
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

January 2, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Improvements in the Quality and Relevance of Political Analysis

The Department believes that there are four areas where efforts can and should be made to improve the quality and relevance of political analysis over the coming months:



A better way to give MPs the chop

It does nothing for the stature of Parliament or for the greater public understanding of our essential, yet defective, democracy when the House of Commons embarks on one of its not infrequent grisly charades. It will do so today when it will debate a motion to guillotine the controversial Employment Bill.

Labour MPs, we are authoritatively informed, are incensed by the Government's decision to cut short argument on the Bill. Mr Michael Foot has already summoned up his righteous indignation to denounce the move as "a great error" which he promises will be bitterly opposed.

So it will be. Superficially, the silly ritual never varies. The House is guaranteed to keep up a shindig. It will be looking anxiously over its collective shoulder at the trade unions, seeking to demonstrate to them that its commitment against Mr Norman Tebbit's measure is heartfelt. Mr John Silkin, the Shadow Leader of the House, and Mr Eric Foray, the party's chief employment spokesman, are likely to share the job of insisting that such an iniquitous piece of legislation cannot be curtailed in this cavalier fashion.

The Government will be accused of unseemly haste in refusing to allow the most exciting line-by-line scrutiny of such far-reaching proposals, however time-consuming. The interests of millions of working people and their families are at stake, we shall be assured.

The Government, almost certainly in the shape of Mr John Biffen, the new Leader of the House, and the abominated Mr Tebbit himself, will point out that after some 22 sittings in committee and 32 hours of debate, MPs have only managed to get through four clauses. Therefore, they will declare, there must be a tightly-drawn timetable, both for the remaining committee sessions and for when the Bill returns to the chamber for the whole House to consider. Labour's deliberate go-slow tactics, they will claim, leave them no choice.

They can be expected to trot out, justifiably enough, the many times when the last Labour Government resorted to the guillotine to ensure that its legislation reached the Statute Book. They will doubtless omit to mention the vehement disapproval for such moves advanced by the then Conservative Opposition.

When the grousing and the shouting is over, the party whips will usher everyone through the voting lobbies. Labour MPs, inevitably beaten at the numbers game, will privately sigh with relief to know they will no longer risk those wearisome, tedious and mostly futile unrestricted debates long into the night. Another round in the phoney war will be over.

It is though, an indictment of the outdated and introverted parliamentary system that these antics are permitted to continue. MPs in opposition, regardless of political colour, still pretend that time is a potent weapon. It rarely is. But they will concede nothing. A range of vested interests underpin their obscurity.

When Labour was in power, I wrote to Michael Foot, the then Leader of the House, on behalf of a group of junior ministers — the poor bloody infantry of the Government. We had been stirred up partly by the perpetual strain of those long days and nights, partly by



Mr Tebbit: he will get his guillotine

The idea, or something like it, could still be resurrected. Mr Biffen might at least float the prospect of all-party talks on Parliamentary procedure which are long overdue. He could be assured of Social Democratic Party support for an attack on the existing follies and inadequacies.

Any new move would, of course, be countered by the same old gang of traditionalists, hidebound proceduralists and procrastinators, serving up the same old reasons for protecting the status quo. They would probably be joined, not for the first time, by the House of Lords abolitionist all-or-nothing brigade.

If Mr Biffen is too new and too nervous to face up to that, then I trust that an SDP-Liberal Alliance government would be ready to put it to the test.

Meanwhile, the idle bickering will go on. Mr Tebbit, his votes stacked up, will get his guillotine. I have no wish to help his unfortunate and untimely Bill along. It is at best a smokescreen for the Government and irrelevant to the nation's real industrial relations, which require far more careful and constructive reform than is on offer. I cannot, however, back the political fraud and gamesmanship which outright hostility to the guillotine would entail. I am sure that they will all get along without me very well. Who knows, if enough others follow suit, someone just might get the message.

John Grant

The author is Social Democratic MP for Islington Central and the party's employment spokesman.

Revealed: America's dithering in the Shah's final days

by Robert Fisk

In late August of 1978, John D. Stempel, the acting political head at the American embassy in Tehran, welcomed ambassador William Sullivan back to Iran with a dog-eat-dog assessment of the Shah's crumbling power.

"While you were away," he wrote, "the place didn't really turn to crap, but it might have looked like it." Stempel could be forgiven his cynicism. All summer, unrest against the Shah's rule had continued throughout Iran. More than 300 people had died in a theatre fire in Abadan, a disaster whose only tangible result was an apparent though discreet split between the religious factions led by Ayatollah Khomeini — still in bitter exile in Paris — and Ayatollah Shariat Madari, down in the holy city of Qom. The Shah's Constitution Day speech had publicly set Iran on the road to liberalization but his shift towards Western-style democracy was being interpreted throughout Iran as a sign of weakness rather than incipient freedom. The Pahlavi dynasty and its king of kings had less than six months left to live.

The staff of the American embassy had, of course, no way of knowing this. In a confidential letter to the American consul in Isfahan in September 1978, Charles W. Nass, the Tehran embassy's Minister-Counsellor, restated with dogged determination the State Department's Iranian perspectives. "The US," he wrote, "has welcomed the Shah's liberalization policy which aims to develop over time a democratic political system: we have no doubts as to his sincerity about the process. The monarchy is a deeply important institution in Iran and the Shah is, in our view, the individual most suited to lead the Iranian people to a more democratic system."

The confidence was painfully misplaced but in the last months of the Shah's rule, American foreign policy was hopelessly divided over the future of its Middle Eastern ally. Its embassy officials in Tehran, desperately trying to understand the rise of a brutal theocracy in the place of an equally ruthless dictatorship, sent back to Washington their increasingly dramatic assessments of the upheavals and street

fighting that sometimes took place only a few blocks from their compound in Takht-e Jamshid Street.

It is not usually vouchsafed to ordinary mortals to read such reports until long after the events have become history, but the thousands of hitherto highly secret documents purloined by Iranian students after they seized the embassy in November, 1979, therefore provide an unprecedented insight into the workings of American foreign policy at this critical moment.

Though published by Ayatollah Khomeini's regime for blatantly propagandistic purposes, the papers are a valuable source book for political historians, a brief glimpse through the mirror of modern history at a time when governments would prefer their archives to remain firmly and legally closed.

The Iranian and the United States Governments were by late 1978 clearly beginning to distrust each other. President Carter's human rights campaign, being cited against the Shah, and when Stempel met Darius Goyandor, the Iranian Prime Minister's Special Adviser in September 1978, he had to assure him that "the so-called 'American emphasis' on human rights had not, contrary to the opinion of many, advocated chaos instead of public order."

But Ambassador Sullivan was himself disenchanted by the Iranian authorities, astonished by their apparent inability to grasp the gravity of the violence in Tehran and other cities. Foreign minister Ashraf, he told Washington, "showed little sensitivity to the deaths that had occurred in the clashes earlier that day (September 8) and insisted that no more than 10 had died. He later telephoned me

at home to change that figure to about 100".

On September 10, Sullivan had an audience with the Shah and found him "tired and unhappy, but considerably more spirited than he was a week ago." He persists in saying that he sees the Soviet hand in all the demonstrations and disturbances that have taken place. At the same time, he says that past mistakes must be corrected... he is eager for some public expression of United States support for him, for his regime, and for his programme... he categorically eschewed any suggestion that he will abdicate or flee the current situation."

The American Embassy directed much of its energy towards cultivating Ayatollah Shariat Madari, whom it identified with the more moderate clergy. Khomeini, one American memorandum stated, was "committed to violence and destruction" while Shariat Madari "would doubtless welcome a chance to participate in an electoral process which might not leave (the religious moderates) wholly subservient to Khomeini."

There are countless references in the American documents to threats and harassment by the more organized Khomeini fanatics but precious little attempt to find out just who these "fanatics" were supposed to be. Ambassador Sullivan told Washington in September 1978 that the extremist coalition of fanatic Muslims led by Ayatollah Khomeini had "reportedly been penetrated and is assisted by a variety of terrorist, crypto-Communist, and other far left elements."

The Americans should have realized that the Shah's power was inevitably doomed when they learnt how his

Shia Islamic movement dominated by Ayatollah Khomeini is a far better organized, enlightened and able to resist communism than its detractors would lead us to believe. It is rooted in the Iranian people more than any Western ideology, including communism.

Sullivan admitted that his embassy had been "labouring with the problem of understanding the breadth and depth of the renaissance Shia religious movement in Iran." The mistake, he said, had been to ridicule or locked up in Savak prisons. "Nevertheless, it has become obvious that Islam is deeply imbedded in the lives of the vast majority of the Iranian people."

It was a painful lesson, but in the aftermath of the revolution the Americans did their best to come to terms with the new regime. Bruce Laingen, the charge d'affaires, who was also to become a hostage within a year, attempted to secure the friendship of Amir Abbas Entezam, the deputy Prime Minister and later the Iranian Ambassador to Scandinavia.

Awardees of the SDP and SDP 1, Entezam appears in the embassy archives holding secret discussions for arms supplies with American officials who appear from the documents to be CIA operatives.

Laingen and his colleagues, however, could not maintain relations with Iran once the Shah arrived in New York for medical treatment. The embassy was invaded in November 1979, and the archives came to a halt, leaving for the Iranians not only a wealth of information to feed their conspiratorial theory of history but a few lessons that they might have heeded had they read the papers more carefully.

They might, for example, have paused a little longer when they came across a memorandum prepared for the director of the defence security assistance agency in Washington just before the Shah's fall. "Iraq remains the greatest threat to Iran," it said. "Any attack by Iraq would likely be limited, with the oil fields as the target. A decision to mount such an attack would require a weak Iranian military force and some plausible reason to present to world opinion..."

Who's to say who's who in the zoo?



Most people can tell the difference between an elephant and a kangaroo. Quite a few could even cope with addax, oryx, dorcops and red-fronted gazelle. But where *Hemionus* and *Chrysomys* are concerned — they are, in fact, two genera of insects whose larvae eat aphids — it takes the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to sort them out.

The commission, founded in 1895, is in peril. After decades of toiling unsung and barely seen in the shadow of the dinosaur in London, the learned body that judges that most basic of issues, the naming of species among the 1,100,000 living and fossil animal species, may itself face extinction next year.

The trust that administers the commission has only one regular source of income: the sales of its bulletin and the code it publishes for the guidance of taxonomists. Two grants which have kept it

going during recent years have now expired and it must find £50,000 to £70,000 a year. Its loss would be a tragedy.

The commission describes itself as "the only international tribunal with the authority to regulate nomenclature problems that obscure communications between zoologists all over the world." This means not only mediating in taxonomic disputes concerning known species but also picking out authoritative way through the inevitable confusion arising from the discovery of about 15,000 new species and 2,000 new genera annually.

"The prospect that the commission may cease operations and the confusion in nomenclature that would inevitably follow should be of concern to all zoologists in medical and veterinary work, agriculture, horticulture, ecology, conservation, palaeontology and taxonomy," the February issue of *The Biologist* gave warning.

The commission comprises 26 zoologists and palaeontologists from 17 countries, reporting to the International Union of Biological Sciences at its triennial assemblies. In 1905 it formulated its first code of rules for nomenclature; this year, ironically, is to see the publication of its third edition.

As there are more species of beetle alone — about 300,000 — than of flowering plants, it is obvious that no code could hope to accommodate every new animal species; cases where the code and the naming zoologist cannot cope are sufficiently plentiful to have filled 38 volumes of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

Those opinions are often of far more than academic interest; identifying the tropical freshwater fluke that spreads schistosomiasis (or should it be bilharzia?), for example, or the organism that causes malaria, can be a matter of life or death, as, less dramatically,

can be a furious controversy over what to call a species of grain weevil or the bee that is the main pollinator of alfalfa.

Plants and animals, of course, are separate kingdoms: small wonder, then, that different taxonomic philosophies should reign. Compared to zoologists, botanists are a happy-go-lucky lot, with a far less rigid code that anyone can interpret as he wishes, and the first validly published name takes precedence.

Zoologists, inevitably, see this system as a mildly disreputable free-for-all, while botanists speak of their colleagues' attempts to foist "taxonomic anarchy" on them.

At the root of both disciplines, however, is a similar paroxysm: the thanklessness, as one biologist, whose own name is hardly a household word, put it recently, of work "so fundamental it doesn't get noticed".

Tony Samstag

What's Greek for a Driver's farewell?

There will be more than usual good cheer today in some of the country's top restaurants. Christopher Driver, the scourge of the kitchens, is leaving the *Good Food Guide*. He goes with a glowing testimonial from Peter Goldman, director of the Consumers' Association, which publishes the book.

He says Driver made a distinctive and dedicated contribution, carrying on the tradition of literary merit and thorough research established by the *Guide's* founder, Raymond Postgate.

Driver, whose predilection for acidulated comment upset whole brigades of chefs and restaurateurs, had much in common with Postgate. When they first lunched together, Driver won his predecessor's approbation by spotting an error in the addition of the bill. Thereafter, both being classical scholars, they exchanged notes about their meals in Latin and Greek.

Driver says that after producing 12 editions he has had enough of the feast. The *Guide's* followers will hope that his successor maintains his campaigns against Muzak and smoking in dining rooms, and that he will inherit that way with words which enabled Driver, for instance, to describe Wolfe's boisterous waitresses as "ewe-lambs in Wolfe's clothing".

Marathon of MPs

Two of the Conservative MPs intending to compete in the Gillette London marathon on May 9 put in staggering performances round the Isle of Thanet over the weekend. Matthew Parris finished the maritime marathon in 2 hours 52 minutes, which won him sixth place although it was some six minutes slower than his last London marathon — in which he came 606th.

Jonathan Aitken, the local MP, finished his first marathon run in 3 hours 54 minutes, but, he assures me, the course was much stiffer than the London one will be. "It took in the windy seafarers of Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, and diverted up every scenic hill in Thanet", he says.

Aitken thinks he proved the superiority of politicians over civil servants by beating his house guest, a member of the Cabinet office, by 16 minutes.

The other MPs hoping to run the London course are Richard Douglas and Leslie Huchfield (Labour); and Gary Waller, Keith Best and Cecil Parkinson (Conservative). Sadly Parkinson, who is Conservative Party chairman in his sedentary moments, has had his training disrupted by the Falklands crisis.

Ned Sherrin, who chairs today's *Foyle's* lunch for Claire Bloom, has a special grace for a literary luncheon. It was supplied, in prompt answer to his entreaty, by Bishop Mervyn Stockwood, and runs: "For the edible and the readable we give thanks to God, the Author of Life." There is, I understand, no copyright.

THE TIMES DIARY

I hope there is no ominous portent in an exchange that Commander Anthony Bateman makes with some officials of the Armada Republica Argentina at a reception at Admiralty House, Simonstown in the 1960s.

Seeking a conversational gambit, Bateman inquired why none of them, not even the admirals, wore medal ribbons.

The reply, which effectively put an end to the conversation, was: "We have no medals because we fight no wars. You British wear ribbons because you are always fighting." Photographs of the junta show the admirals and generals still in undecorated uniforms, so we must hope they have not now developed a determined lust for battle honours.

The country, urgently needs repairs which Blant thinks likely to cost more than £70,000. They are being neglected because the local congregation is already struggling to raise a similar sum for repairs to the church itself.

Mount Everest, the fully booked high rise facility in the Himalayas, could soon be the venue for international summit discussions. While Chris Bonington's six-man team are attempting the previously unclimbed east and north-east ridge, a strong Russian team is climbing the south-west face from Nepal, and 16 Americans are tackling the north face.

Carrot cure

The peculiar cookery of the citizens of Salvador, the oldest city and former capital of Brazil, may play an important part in testing the theory that carrots can inhibit cancer.

The Salvadorians cook their *vatapa*, *xinxin* and *moqueca* (fish, chicken and seafood) in red palm

oil, which contains from five to ten times as much carotene as carrots. Their use of the oil, inherited from West African slaves, gives Salvadorians the highest carotene intake in the world. Carotene is a principal source of vitamin A, which Sir Richard Doll has estimated could reduce cancer mortality by a third.

Now a Brazilian epidemiologist working in the department of community medicine in Oxford, Dr Alec Kalache, is to compare the incidence of cancer among Salvadorians with that in nearby Recife, where red palm oil is not a popular cooking medium. If he finds the marked difference he hopes for, red palm oil and the curries will outstrip even vitamin A pills and polar bear liver (the richest source of the vitamin A) as the health food of the future.

Skates on now

Chris Galer has just sent a birthday card to the drama producer of BBC Radio Wales in Cardiff, not for his birthday but to mark the first full year the manuscript of Galer's radio play *Card Reader* has spent with him. The card reads: Dear Manuscript, Congratulations on reaching one year of age. Where are you? Why don't I hear from you? Are you lost? Yours ever, Dad."

Thin Ice was well liked when originally submitted and read by the producer and a script editor. Some "final" revisions suggested were quickly carried out. Since then there has been no word save a message last December that the revised version had still to be read. Letters have gone unans-



Fix the crisis continues, what about an engagement with BSA?

Don't start casting the clouds just yet though. Mackins warns that until the mid or May we may have to endure cold winds, cloudbursts, severe thunderstorms and possibly even snow. This he blames on the second eruption of Mount St. Helens, which he claims, was the cause of the unprecedented April blizzards in the eastern states of America.

When the volcano last exploded, in May 1980, one of the things blown up with it was Mackins' confident prediction of scorching summer weather. Expect the fine spell to commence, volcanoes permitting, about May 22.

Evolving doors

To commemorate the centenary of Charles Darwin's death, his great grandson, Richard Darwin Keynes, professor of physiology at Cambridge, yesterday unveiled a plaque renaming University College London's biological sciences building the Darwin Building.

University College claims to be the only academic institution in the world which occupies space where Darwin once made his home — other sites having since been demolished or changed to non-academic uses.

Brian Cook bought a block of *Cadbury's Dairy Milk* whose wrapper carried a voucher with the instruction: "Take this coupon to your retailer, most of whom will exchange it for a free 40g bar."

This leaves him wondering: "easily which part of his retailer's most likely to refuse."

PHS

Australian...
From Mr George...
Don Markwell...
Sir, Your recent...
leadership crisis...
Liberal Party...
seems that the...
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We should like...
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was a massive...
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Labor parties lost...
separate.

Your report con...
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now to be hea...
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over many months...
election in the F...



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THE SEARCH FOR COMPROMISE

Mr Pym's statement in the Commons yesterday on the Falklands crisis was as unimpressive as must be expected in the midst of such critical negotiations. He did little more than reassert British objectives, which are to get Argentine forces withdrawn from the Falklands and British administration restored before negotiations can resume on the long-term future of the islands. Meanwhile, every effort is being made to build up military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Argentina. The fact that Norway has now joined Europe in imposing sanctions is to be welcomed.

There remains, however, a wide gap between the basic simplicity of British objectives and the complexities of achieving them. Britain has sent the fleet to defend two principles. One is the principle that territorial claims should not be pursued by force, and that when they are the gains should not be allowed to stand. In other words, aggression should not pay. The other is the principle of self-determination: the Falklanders, like other peoples, should have a right to decide under which government they wish to live. This right has been violated by Argentina and should be restored. Both these principles have been endorsed by the United Nations, and the first has been specifically reinforced in the case of the Falkland Islands by Resolution 502.

Hence there can be no negotiation on the basic British demand that the Argentine forces withdraw from the islands and the Falklanders be given a chance to express their wishes. But that does not mean that negotiation is impossible, or even that Argentine interests cannot be accommodated. The situation before the invasion included British willingness to negotiate over the sovereignty of the Falklands. Among the ideas put forward was that Argentina would be given nominal sovereignty and would then lease back the islands to Britain for a fixed period, perhaps twenty-five years. To restore the status quo ante is, therefore, not to deny Argentina any chance of acquiring the islands but on the contrary to restore British willingness to negotiate on just this point, but certainly not under duress, or the threat of it.

Moreover if negotiations began in peace they could take place against a background which would be somewhat more favourable to Argentina, for there is one aspect of the status quo ante which cannot be restored, and that is the comfortable assumption of the islanders before the invasion that they could remain indefinitely under solely British protection while building up all the benefits of close links with the Argentine mainland. Given the opportunity to express their views they might now be more amenable to compromise arrangements than they were in the past. They cannot be greatly attracted by the prospect of

living on a heavily fortified island at the end of long and vulnerable lines of supply from the United Kingdom. In other words, defending the principle of self-determination may not be wholly incompatible with reaching some form of compromise which would save Argentina's pride while restoring British administration. For instance, it would not seem entirely wrong if the freeholder were permitted to fly a flag along with the leaseholder, provided that entitlement was achieved by negotiation and agreement, rather than by aggression.

What remains wholly unacceptable, however, is that the Falklanders should simply be taken over by a government which not only has no legal right to be there but also happens to be a singularly brutal military dictatorship which cannot in any way be trusted to respect their individual rights, as it is already showing by its attempts to "Argentinise" the island. To permit this would be to forfeit any claim to be concerned with human rights or basic justice.

However, if it is not too difficult to envisage just solutions that ought to be acceptable to both sides it remains formidably difficult to chart a course for reaching such solutions in time to avoid a military clash.

That would prejudice not only a peaceful future for the Falklanders but also what ought to be another important British objective: the restoration of good relations with Argentina.

FROM FUNNY MONEY TO A CASH CRISIS

The Treasury Committee of the House of Commons is temperate in its criticism of the Government but telling in its arguments in its latest report on public spending plans. Its call for much greater information from the Government on the volume and output of public spending in the years ahead should be endorsed by the House when the Government's expenditure plans are discussed on Wednesday.

This year has seen the first attempt by the Government to carry out its spending planning for several years ahead in cash terms. In the past, plans were drawn up in "volume" terms, which the committee concedes did not give a true picture of what most ordinary citizens would think mattered in assessing spending. The measure assessed what was used up as inputs not what was produced as output; and it did not give sufficient warning of changes in costs.

It is this which led to a general acceptance that the old system of controlling public spending had to go; and as a blunt instrument aimed at underlining the way things have changed, planning in cash has many advantages. But there are problems, under which the Government will have to deal with if it is to make its plans for future

years credible. In an ideal world without inflation there would be no need to worry about whether spending was planned in cash terms or in "real" terms, for the two would be identical. It is only by having a clear view of what is going to happen to inflation and what the Government can expect to get for its money in future years that the public can assess Government spending plans.

Treasury officials fear that spelling out such information would strengthen the hand of spending departments. The reason for that fear shows the danger of the way in which the latest spending plans have been drawn up. For the assumption about inflation on which the old volume plans were originally converted into cash was more optimistic than the Government is now forecasting. Unless public sector costs are held below those of the rest of the economy, that will present ministers this summer with a choice between cuts in programmes or increases in cash amounts available for next year and beyond.

We thus risk seeing a repeat of the events of last summer, when the Cabinet was deeply split over a call for spending "cuts" which

Crime prevention programme

From the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Sir, Crime and violence are rightly issues of great concern, but the hue and cry of recent weeks has neither changed the facts about crime nor told us anything new at all about how to deal with it.

Rates of recorded crime are rising in all Western industrialised countries. We know as well that the USSR and even China are facing similar problems. We know that crime is a complex problem with its roots deep in society. We know the break-up of urban communities and the decaying of thousands of people into massive, bleak housing estates have played their part.

More recently unemployment has to have had its effect, especially on the young and on children growing up in families where the parents have no work and no hope of work. The rapid advance of new technology, desirable though it may be, is likely increasingly to add to pressures of the social upheaval we are experiencing. The growth of more technological policing has created certainly a gap between the police and the people.

Thus those who claim these problems will be solved by capital punishment, corporal punishment, longer and harder prison sentences and more prison building are deluding themselves and misleading the public. We have more convicted prisoners per head of population than any other European country. Our prisons are filled to bursting, though not with violent offenders or even burglars. Over half of those imprisoned on any one day are locked up for non-violent offences other than burglary.

As Lord Lane said in the House of Lords on March 24 "...neither police nor courts nor prison can solve the problem of the rising crime rate. By the time that the criminal falls into the hands of the police, and more particularly by the time that he reaches court, it is too late."

Instead of allowing the debate to be dominated by calls for harsher penalties and longer prison sentences the Government should initiate a programme of crime prevention. They should look in detail at what has been achieved so far, they should build on the work already done by various organisations, including Nacro (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders), in reducing vandalism, crime and fear of crime on poorly designed and neglected housing estates.

The present position should be changed so that the Home Office is enabled directly to fund a wide range of crime prevention schemes. Finally, the Home Secretary should look again at his decision to impose a standstill on new funding for community run schemes that keep offenders out of further trouble.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. G. CHRISTOPHER,
Chairman,
CHARLES IRVING,
Vice-Chairman,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.

Computer generation

From Simon G. Bull

Sir, Much of the content of Henry Fairlie's report (April 14) will come as no surprise to many parents in this country who are now confronted with an older problem in a new form.

More precisely, mention of the first television generation recalls the domestic discord that often arose when children wished to view one programme on television whilst their parents wished to view another. For those who did not solve this problem by purchasing additional television sets a new dimension has been added — the home computer.

The sibling rivalry to which Henry Fairlie refers is now seen in the form of competition between the elder children who wish to use the television set to display interminable programmes that they have devised for the home computer — often, ostensibly, in connection with their school work — and the younger generation who wish to play computerised games of which some, at least, seem to have educational value.

Even if the teachers quoted are right, one presumes the sibling gap can never be less than nine months.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON G. BULL,
Oakwood,
97 Island Road,
Sturry,
Canterbury,
Kent,
April 14.

Worker democracy

From Mr W. J. Allenby

Sir, Professor R. Beresford Dew's letter (April 15) on employee democracy contains a major error: what employees of German companies have the right to elect by secret ballot is half the supervisory board, not the board of management. In the case of most companies the supervisory board meets once or twice a year. It is also wrong to believe that all British companies lag behind their German counterparts in employee information and participation. I can assure your readers that we follow exactly the same procedures in our British and German companies and we are by no means unique in this respect.

More fundamentally, Professor Dew appears to over-estimate the extent to which a procedural framework, imposed by law, can change the deep-seated attitudes bred by generations of distrust and prejudice.

Finally, I would like to remind Professor Dew that what he is asking for, and no more, is contained in the fourth alternative of the latest EEC draft fifth directive which shows signs of being adopted in the near future. Perhaps Professor Dew can use his influence to help to ensure that some relatively minor amendments are carried before this happens.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ALLENBY,
Joint Managing Director,
Lansing Bagnall Ltd,
Kingsclere Road,
Basingstoke,
April 15.

Mental Health Bill

From Lady Bingley and others

Sir, In 1975, following the MIND publication, "A Human Condition", not fully taken up in its case that the Mental Health Act, 1959, shows too many traces of paternalism of an earlier day. The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill marks the end of an important era in MIND's history — we are delighted to see that some two thirds of its recommendations are based on our original proposals. At the same time, we have brought a series of successful cases before the European Court of Human Rights, which have resulted in substantial amendments to the Bill.

We agree with your leader (March 31) that the Bill will remove much of the paternalism in the existing statute, but do not agree with some of its conclusions. The leader would ap-

UN influence in a Falklands solution

From Mr Donald Hall

Sir, As one of those remaining who worked on the foundations of the United Nations, may I urge agreement to a peace force if such is proposed. Too often we have by our indifference undermined the influence of a body created for the very purpose of resolving such crises as the present one.

The United Nations through the Security Council, as well as the EEC and members of the Commonwealth, have recognised the justice of our cause, and the absolute need to assert that aggression must not pay, the United States' good offices, somewhat ungraciously regarded, have so far preserved peace.

But while acknowledging all this we must be honest with ourselves: we, no less than the Argentines, are fearful of losing face — even, it seems, prepared to let loose a war as futile as any in history, and of which no bounds can be foreseen, for the sake of it.

The United Nations peace force enables both parties to withdraw from the lethal position in which they have placed themselves, and possibly the rest of the world. Our assertion of sovereignty would be in no way prejudiced: the support we have already received, it would tend to be confirmed. At all events it would give pause while the future of the Falklands is calmly deliberated. Moreover, it would seem to strengthen the prestige of the United Nations which is so important for the peace of the world.

We might also remember, in connection with our not very shining sovereignty over those islands, that the sovereignty of nations is the prime cause of war and consequent misery: it has nothing to do with patriotism, which is love of one's country.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD HALL,
Wilcote Grange,
Finstock,
Oxfordshire,
April 17.

Doctor at large

From Dr A.C. Chamier

Sir, It seems to me that discussion about the length of time taken for postgraduate students to complete their PhD theses is a little premature. In present circumstances, my experiences lead me to believe that it is unprofitable to embark upon postgraduate studies at all. My husband gave up a career in diplomacy in 1971 so that I could remain, once our children were at school, at home to pursue a career in scientific research, preferably as a university don.

I spent two years studying for the relevant A levels; three years to obtain a first-class degree in Botany and, on the strength of a personal grant from a research council, three years to complete a PhD thesis on a physiological aspect of biodegradation — an area of research within the scope of biotechnology.

Since completion, 16 months ago, I have tried to find work either as a lecturer or as a research worker, without success. The universities have stopped recruiting staff; funds for research have been cut; I lack the experience to compete with those of my own age and those positions for which my experience qualifies me are invariably limited to candidates between the ages 25-35. For many other jobs I would be prepared to undertake, I am considered overqualified. At

Ominous developments

From Mr Richard Wilson

Sir, In spite of his pretended innocence (feature, April 14) Mr Heseltine knows that it is easier for district councils to tempt developers and their rising middle classes to convert Britain's green fields with bricks and concrete than to settle down to deal with the problem of redeveloping our cities and derelict land.

He should legislate to limit the massive powers local authorities now have to choose the easy option. But would the regenerated cities vote Tory, and would his Tory district councillors still love him?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILSON,
92 Fentiman Road, SW8,
London,
April 14.

Surgeon's hungry allies

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, At the 1951 Festival of Britain Exhibition there was shown a Temperance Progressor (letter, April 17) from the 1851 Great Exhibition. Each of 12 leeches ascended a separate glass tube from the wet sandy bottom of a large glass jar.

The impact of 12 leeches arriving simultaneously at the top caused a small bell to ring, presumably audible in the calm before the storm. Was it a joke, I wonder?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALMENT,
Winston House,
Boughton,
Northampton,
April 17.

Question mark over orchestral visit

From Mr John McCabe

Sir, The arguments about the proposed visit to London in 1983 of the Los Angeles Philharmonic to give us a Brahms cycle have, so far as I know, not mentioned the complete absence of American music from the programmes, a lack which is implicit in the basic scheme.

It seems to me quite extraordinary for an American orchestra to consider giving a series of concerts in Britain without enabling us to hear a note of American music. There are, after all, plenty of first-rate pieces which have already made a fine impression over here and which deserve more frequent exposure as part of the symphonic repertoire, especially in performances by such major artists, who could present the works to their best advantage.

To miss such an opportunity would be to deprive audiences of an excellent chance of widening their musical horizons, and of depriving American composers of increased access to audiences which have already (though perhaps too infrequently) been able to enjoy their works.

It would also continue the current pernicious process of reducing the standard repertoire to an ever-diminishing number of works which, through over-exposure, might be in grave danger of losing their essential meaning.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MCCABE,
49 Burns Avenue,
Southall,
Middlesex,
April 15.

From Miss Susan M. Alcock

Sir, Bryan Appleyard's article (April 12) and Robert Spencer's letter (April 14) oblige me to make an attempt to spell out the ISM view of Mr Jasper Parrott's present campaign.

First of all let us have the situation in perspective. Why is Mr Parrott creating such a fuss about the Los Angeles Philharmonic? We all want to enjoy the best from abroad. That is why a generous scheme has evolved over at least 40 years to allow foreign artists to come here with the minimum of restriction. Other countries also operate controls. It is ridiculous to regard the rules, of which Mr Parrott is so impatient, as an affront to freedom. To preserve freedom some controls have to exist to prevent distortion and unfairness.

Are all these careful guidelines to be thrown over to suit Mr Parrott's commercial interest?

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN M. ALCOCK, General Secretary,
Incorporated Society of Musicians,
10 Stratford Place, W1,
April 15.

Tibetan deforestation

From Mr Paul Ingram

Sir, I read with interest an item (April 7) which dealt with the widespread deforestation projects on the Indian side of the Himalayas, with consequent ecological damage to the severe involved.

Such deforestation is not, alas, confined to one side of the Himalayas. The Chinese too are rapidly deforesting huge areas of the old Tibet (the provinces of Kham and Amdo) which they annexed in their invasion of 1950. This was observed by the second Beasain delegation sent by the Dalai Lama's government in exile at the invitation of the Chinese government. (See *Tibet News Review*, Winter 1980/81). In these areas some 65,000 people are employed in intensive lumbering. Whole hillsides have been devastated and day and night rivers are full of logs being sent down river to China.

In these regions there was once a flourishing wildlife, bears, wolves, wild geese and ducks, black-necked cranes and fish-eagles, together with great herds of deer and gazelles. They have all been practically exterminated.

Man's inhumanity to man and to nature seems without limit.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL INGRAM, Secretary,
Scientific Buddhist Association,
30 Hollingbourne Gardens, W13.

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Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALMENT,
Winston House,
Boughton,
Northampton,
April 17.

Australian elections

From Mr George Brandis and Mr Don Markwell

Sir, Your recent coverage of the leadership crisis in the Australian Liberal Party (feature, April 10) asserts that the Liberal Party owes its electoral success at the Federal level since 1975 to the leadership of Mr Malcolm Fraser. We dispute that there is such a causal relationship between Mr Fraser's leadership and the electoral successes of 1975, 1977 and 1980.

Indisputably, the 1975 election was a massive vote of no confidence in the Whitlam Labor Government. It had little, if anything, to do with whoever led the Liberal Party then.

As was widely realised in Australia at the time, the election of 1977 (not, as you report, 1978) was little other than a rerun of that of 1975 — only two years before. The appalling performance of the Whitlam Government was fresh in people's minds. The vote was against Whitlam (who led the Labor Party in the election) rather than for Fraser.

It was not until 1980 that the electoral spotlight fell on Mr Fraser and far from being "a more than convincing victory", the Fraser Government came very close to losing.

The election saw a swing to Labor of 4.2 per cent leaving the Government vulnerable to a swing of less than 1.5 per cent — in Australian terms, exceptionally close to the brink. All of the seats that make up the Government's apparently comfortable majority are held by exceedingly narrow margins. Also, for the first time in 30 years, the anti-Labor parties lost control of the Senate.

Your report concedes that the Liberals, under Fraser, appear now to be heading towards electoral defeat. Opinion polls over many months, the recent by-election in the Federal seat of

Future of local radio

From Mr J. F. Wilkinson

Sir, Let me state quite categorically that there is no truth at all in the rumours referred to by Mr Charles Morris, MP, and Mr Frank White, MP, in their letter printed on April 12, which suggested that the output of BBC local radio stations is to be reduced. Further to this there is no intention to divert their resources or diminish their editorial position in any way. The intention of the Board of Governors is to ensure that the network production centres, the eight regional television stations and the present and future local radio stations in England are supported by a management structure which will properly safeguard their development.

It is with this in mind that they have asked me to undertake a review of the present arrangements. I have already started consultations with staff but it will be some time before these are completed. The chairmen of all regional and local radio advisory councils have been invited to this review and will be the appropriate time and before final decisions are taken. There is no truth at all in the statement that local advisory councils will be disbanded in favour of one overall council.

The BBC welcomes the recognition of the valuable contri-

Low and the Victorian state

election suggest that Mr Fraser is not the winner your article elsewhere suggests him to be. Many Australian Liberals have long believed that he never was.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE BRANDIS,
DON MARKWELL,
247 Woodstock Road,
Oxford,
April 10.

Worker democracy

From Mr W. J. Allenby

Sir, Professor R. Beresford Dew's letter (April 15) on employee democracy contains a major error: what employees of German companies have the right to elect by secret ballot is half the supervisory board, not the board of management. In the case of most companies the supervisory board meets once or twice a year. It is also wrong to believe that all British companies lag behind their German counterparts in employee information and participation. I can assure your readers that we follow exactly the same procedures in our British and German companies and we are by no means unique in this respect.

More fundamentally, Professor Dew appears to over-estimate the extent to which a procedural framework, imposed by law, can change the deep-seated attitudes bred by generations of distrust and prejudice.

Finally, I would like to remind Professor Dew that what he is asking for, and no more, is contained in the fourth alternative of the latest EEC draft fifth directive which shows signs of being adopted in the near future. Perhaps Professor Dew can use his influence to help to ensure that some relatively minor amendments are carried before this happens.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ALLENBY,
Joint Managing Director,
Lansing Bagnall Ltd,
Kingsclere Road,
Basingstoke,
April 15.

Computer generation

From Simon G. Bull

Sir, Much of the content of Henry Fairlie's report (April 14) will come as no surprise to many parents in this country who are now confronted with an older problem in a new form.

More precisely, mention of the first television generation recalls the domestic discord that often arose when children wished to view one programme on television whilst their parents wished to view another. For those who did not solve this problem by purchasing additional television sets a new dimension has been added — the home computer.

The sibling rivalry to which Henry Fairlie refers is now seen in the form of competition between the elder children who wish to use the television set to display interminable programmes that they have devised for the home computer — often, ostensibly, in connection with their school work — and the younger generation who wish to play computerised games of which some, at least, seem to have educational value.

Even if the teachers quoted are right, one presumes the sibling gap can never be less than nine months.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON G. BULL,
Oakwood,
97 Island Road,
Sturry,
Canterbury,
Kent,
April 14.

Mental Health Bill

From Lady Bingley and others

Sir, In 1975, following the MIND publication, "A Human Condition", not fully taken up in its case that the Mental Health Act, 1959, shows too many traces of paternalism of an earlier day. The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill marks the end of an important era in MIND's history — we are delighted to see that some two thirds of its recommendations are based on our original proposals. At the same time, we have brought a series of successful cases before the European Court of Human Rights, which have resulted in substantial amendments to the Bill.

We agree with your leader (March 31) that the Bill will remove much of the paternalism in the existing statute, but do not agree with some of its conclusions. The leader would ap-

theory, and led to the publication of *Modern English* in 1962 and *History of English* in 1964. The latter, an inspired work of deep learning, was drafted with remarkable speed during a single session at Harvard, and is a memorial to her most brilliant.

She was active in the life of her own university and served for a period on the University Council. Her interest in the history of English was reflected in her teaching, and she was a frequent lecturer on the subject at various international conferences.

Her thoughts had been turned to the possibility of writing a memoir, and she had begun to do so. But she was too busy to do so, and she died before she could complete it. Her death was a great loss to the world of English studies.

F MORRIS

She was a woman of great intellect and great courage. She was a woman who was not afraid to speak her mind, and who was not afraid to stand up for her beliefs. She was a woman who was a true leader, and who was a true friend.

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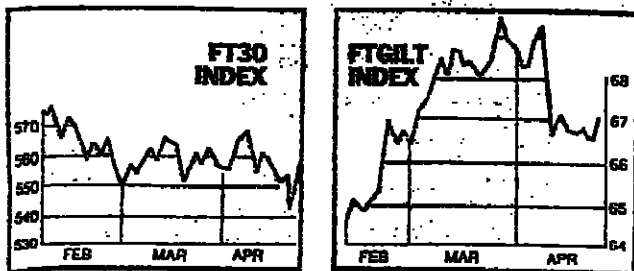
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BUSINESS NEWS

دولة الكويت

Rally by markets



The improved prospects for peace in the Falklands crisis made a rapid impact in the Stock Market where the FT index rallied 7.4 to 558.1 after the 9.6 fall last week. Dealers are now expecting a rise in the index of up to 30 points if the crisis is resolved. Meanwhile, the FT 100 index remains thin but last week's 0.26 fall in the FT 100 index was reversed yesterday with a 0.56 rise to 67.06.

Hold-up on Clore assets

Jersey courts have given until the end of the week for parties with interests in the late Sir Charles Clore's estate to agree on whether Stype Investments should transfer £20m to the Official Solicitor in England. Stype wants to transfer the money after a Court of Appeal judgment that the Inland Revenue could proceed against it for £15m capital transfer tax arising from the sale of Sir Charles' Herefordshire property. The company's £28m assets in England could be seized to pay the CIT liability if it does not comply with the appeal court ruling.

The money cannot be handed over until the Jersey courts lift partially a 1979 injunction restricting transfer of Clore assets.

ACC vote on Gill payoff

Voting shareholders of Associated Communications Corporation met today to decide whether Mr Jack Gill, the dismissed managing director, should get a record £560,000 golden handshake and be able to buy his house for £100,000 below market value. Five ACC directors, including Lord Grade, the former chairman, have promised Mr Gill to cast their 43.5 per cent in his favour.

Swing into deficit

The capital account of industrial and commercial companies swung into deficit in the final quarter of 1981 as the pace of destocking slowed. Companies had a borrowing requirement of £5,600m in the second half of 1981, after repaying £1,200m in the first half. This was more than covered by £3,900m from the banks and £4,800m from elsewhere.

Business Editor, page 19

£20m drift

Profits of Britain's biggest shipping consortium, Overseas Containers Limited, fell from £46m to £26m last year. Sir Ronald Swayne, chairman, blamed competition, the recession, and industrial action by seamen and dockers.

Business Editor, page 19

MARKET SUMMARY

Peace hopes lift shares

Leading electricals saw Plessey 5p better at 370p on prospects for the System X development with British Telecom, and Racal 8p better at 383p. The FT 100 index rose at 99p on hopes for a helicopter deal with Italy.

Properties were generally easier on fears of higher interest rates but Capital & Counties recorded an exceptional 3p rise to 129p on hopes of an eventual bid from Liberty Life. MEPC slipped 1p to 201p after a line of 1.6m shares were placed at 195p.

Waller Lawrence put on 10p to 170p after the construction and property group reported a 35 per cent profit rise and the prospect of a return to profits for its last loss-making subsidiary.

Leading banks remained on offer with Barclays 3p off at 438p and Lloyds shedding 2p to 413p but there was a 12p upturn for Westland in aircraft at 89p on hopes for a helicopter deal with Italy.

Hanson Trust was 5p easier as lines of stock appeared ahead of what are likely to be poor interim figures, due shortly.

Leahurst Securities, a wholly owned dealing subsidiary of John Carrington & Co, has made a £175,000 offer for Speedwell Gear Case which it intends to take as a cash shell after selling Speedwell's engineering interests for £150,000 to Astra Industrial Group. Acquisition news from Speedwell is expected soon.

Garth David

COMMODITIES

● The world's tin producers and tin consumers met separately in London yesterday as a prelude to the opening of the International Tin Council's four-day meeting today when the question of export controls may be reexamined.

Members spent most of March discussing whether export controls should be imposed to bolster prices. The producers were all in favour of such a move, but consumers — led by the United States — were against. Another matter under discussion will be the new five-year pact, due to come into force in July. The financial position of the council's buffer stock is also likely to be closely examined.

The London tin market, after jumping £100 in the first few days following the news, settled down in very narrow trading at between £7,350 and £7,380 a metric ton for three months delivery. The buffer manager was said to have been "busy" buying in both London and Penang, Malaysia.

TODAY

Mr Edward Heath addresses American Chamber of Commerce lunch, London.

Company meetings. Interims. Wm. Low. Finals. Bodycote International. Bousfield. First Charlotte Assets Trust. Green's Economist. Estates Duties Investment Trust. Hamilton Oil Great Britain. Hallam Sleigh and Chaston. Lamont. John Menzies. Harbottle. Perry Motors. Smiths Industries. Tibury Group. United Parcels. Webster Group. Welbeck Investments.

MONEY MARKETS

● The Bank provided a total of £402m assistance, rather less than the estimated shortage of £50m, at unchanged rates. Very short rates were firmer, while period rates remained steady.

Domestic rates: Base rates 13%. A month: Interbank 14-15%. Euro-currency rates: 3 month DM 15 1/2-15 3/4. 3 month DM 9 1/2-8 1/4. 3 month FR 21% - 21 1/2%.

GEC wins £250m order for S Africa

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

GEC has won a contract worth more than £250m to supply turbine generators for a new power station in South Africa. The order continues the run of major export successes by the British heavy electrical engineering industry. Within the past month, GEC, Northern Engineering Industries and Babcock and Wilcox have won about £600m worth of business to supply equipment for power stations in India and Taiwan.

The South African contract, announced yesterday, includes six 600MW generators for a coal-fired power station to be built in the south-eastern Transvaal between Volksrust and Amersfoort.

GEC expects at least 80 per cent of the work — more than £200m worth of business — to be done at its plants in Britain. The remainder of the equipment will be made locally by GEC South Africa and Barlow Rand.

The work, which will begin in 1984, will secure hundreds of jobs at the Rugby base of GEC Turbine Generators for the remainder of this decade. Altogether more than 8,000 people are expected to work on the project.

Mr Bob Davidson, managing director, said last night that this brought the firm's order book for heavy generators to £1,600m. His company now has 11.5 per cent of the world market, just behind the leader, Mitsubishi of Japan, with 12 per cent.

In the open South African market, GEC has won half of all generator orders since 1975. The company is also constructing six 600MW units for the Duvha power station and another six for the Tutuka station.

The first three Duvha generators are already operating successfully, and GEC attributes the new contract — won against eight foreign competitors — to the happy experience of the South African Electricity Supply Commission (Eskom) with those units.

In design, the new generators will be very similar to the standard modern unit which GEC has been building since the early 1970s. Although the technology may not have changed much, Mr Davidson said, the company's heavy investment in manufacturing equipment had significantly reduced their construction costs.

Finance for the South African project announced yesterday was arranged by Hill Samuel. A buyer credit from the Export Credits Guarantee Department will support 85 per cent of the British portions of the order. Hill Samuel has arranged a Eurodollar loan to cover the South African part of the contract.

Government data on spending criticized

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The Government should give Parliament much more information on its public spending plans in future, according to the Commons Treasury Committee.

In a report on Government spending the committee says that information on the cost, relative price and the output of public spending should be included in future White Papers. It says this information is needed in addition to the figures for cash planning which the Treasury published in this year's White Paper.

Mr Edward Du Cann, the committee chairman, said that Parliament was being asked to approve figures "without knowing what the money is being spent on".

The committee says that volume plans need not challenge the primacy of cash planning but are necessary in assessing spending measures. The report, which is conciliatory in tone, draws attention to a number of pledges by Treasury officials and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to try to give more information on public spending.

Mr Edward Du Cann, the committee chairman, said that Parliament was being asked to approve figures "without knowing what the money is being spent on".

The committee is particularly keen to try to measure the effect of public spending on the economy, and to see how public spending needs are met by the Treasury. The subject is expected to be raised in a Parliamentary debate on the Government spending plans tomorrow.

Doubts are also raised in the report about the credibility of the figures in the Government's plans for the years ahead.

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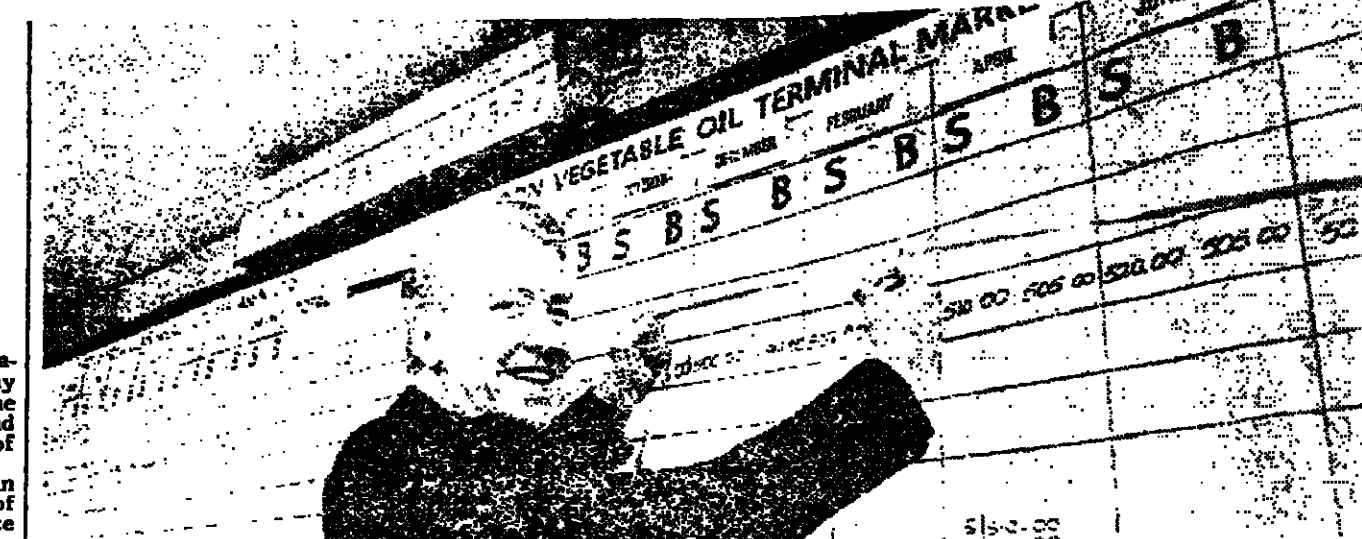
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Mr Peter Walker opening London's new futures market in soyabean oil yesterday

£48m lift-off for gold

By Sally White

Trading in the two new futures markets that opened in London yesterday — gold and soyabean oil — started well. Both reported a good volume of activity.

The London gold futures market had done 2,338 lots, of 100 each, by the close of trade. The value of that is about £48m. Most activity centred on the August position, where the price fell from an early high of £211.75 to close at around £204.75 an ounce on hopes of a peaceful settlement in the Falklands.

Mr Keith Smith, of Mocatta & Goldsmid, chairman of the new market, said that once it is fully established, probably by the autumn, daily volume could be 5,000 contracts. The market, which was opened by Sir Christopher Leaver, the Lord Mayor of London, is unique in offering futures trading in bullion in sterling.

Those members of the London Gold Futures Market who may trade on the floor range from London merchant banks to leading metal groups.

London hopes to attract business from the New York and Zurich markets and to gain a larger market share of the bullion business done by the leading producers.

The Soyabean Oil Market was opened by Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The first day's trading saw turnover of 225 lots, of which 52 lots were crossed. Good trade interest was seen although sellers predominated. Most trade was in the August position, where the price came down about \$2 to \$489 a tonne.

Mr Tony Shepherd, of Czarnikow, chairman of the London Vegetable Oil Terminal Market Association, said that business was expected to average 100 lots a day. The last time a vegetable oil market was set up, in the 1970s, lack of trade support caused it to collapse. But this time the trade has been fully canvassed and the dollar contract is designed to fulfill its requirements.

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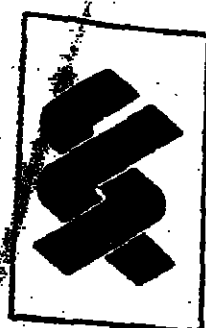
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Standard Chartered

Bank PLC



1980

Comments by the Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Barber

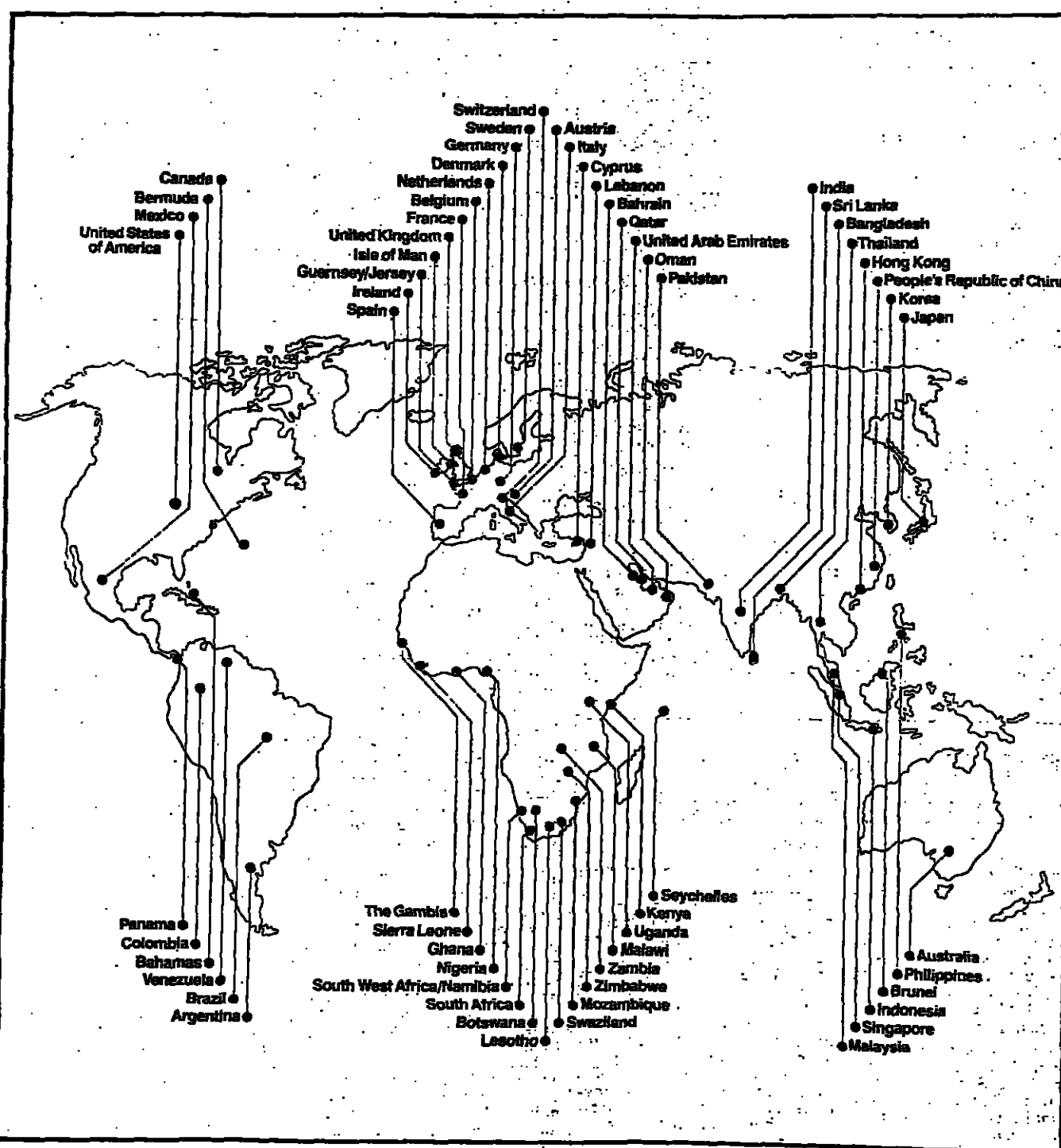
Profits before taxation up 12%
Earnings per share up 24%
Dividend up 14%

Shareholders' Funds now
£1,023 million
Total Assets now
£19,822 million

Profits before taxation for the year ended 31st December 1981 amounted to £260 million, compared with £233 million the year before. The net profit attributable to shareholders, after deducting taxation and minority interests, was £135 million or 156 pence per share. The total dividend proposed for the year is 37 pence per share.

The triennial valuation of group properties resulted in a net surplus of £234 million, which has been added to group reserves, and the total of shareholders' funds at the end of 1981 amounted to £1,023 million. The directors have recommended a bonus issue of one fully paid ordinary share for each two ordinary shares currently held, after which the issued capital of the bank will amount to £130 million.

In commercial banking the group's strong domestic banking systems in Africa produced very satisfactory results and the branch operations of The Chartered Bank in the East sustained their profitable contributions. The newer group branches in Europe



1,500 offices in 60 countries
around the world.

achieved a significant increase in earnings, as did the international and treasury divisions in London, both of which made record profits. Group merchant banks had a

good year. The instalment finance companies in Britain and South Africa were adversely affected by interest movements on their fixed rate lending as was Union Bank in

California.

During the twelve years since the Standard Chartered Bank group was created, we have developed new commercial banking operations in the metropolitan market places of Europe and North America to complement our traditional branch networks in Africa and the East. At the same time we have used the strength of our balance sheet to make acquisitions in related financial services companies, as well as to invest in the Mocatta group of companies and to undertake the purchase of Union Bank in California.

While not all these developments are yet making a satisfactory contribution, we have endeavoured to secure a foothold in most of the banking market places that are open to us in the free world and to develop the experience and skills that will ensure a worthwhile business for us in the future.

With the strength provided by the diversified structure and operations of the Standard Chartered group, we are well placed to maintain progress.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts and of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from: The Secretary, 10 Clements Lane London EC4N 7AB

The bank with experience the world over

BUSINESS
INTERVIEW
ITALY
Governments move shield
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
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APPOINTMENT
DARES E
Rent boost profit
Higher rent
deals hoped
of Birmingham
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jumped to £
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Mr David
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**Badweather
at Christmas
costs £500,000**

retail profits for the year, at £2.7m, were down at 8.2 per cent of turnover of £279.3m, which was 6.9 per cent on the year before. This was about in line with market expectations but there was a bigger-than-expected switch to credit sales.

With little expansion in the electrical goods market and a low level of price inflation on these

As the Currys cash board has continued to be invested, notably on the expanding television and video rental business, interest payments have come down. The rental investment was about £10m in the year and this process, although at a lesser rate, is expected to go on for about two years. But the rental operation is now in profit, with promises of big profits when plans fully mature at the end of the investment cycle.

The yield at 166p is about 4.2 per cent and the price/earnings ratio 14.8. If Currys did not treat un-matured profit so conservatively the profits figure would have been higher, according to Mr Jim McQueen, analyst at Hoare Govett.

Mr McQueen has geared his pretax profits forecast for the present year up from £12.5m to nearer £13m, weather hazards apart. At Strauss Turnbull, Mr Robert Snaith, who has been rather more bullish on Currys, forecasts £13m to £13.25m, down from his earlier forecast of £13.5m, but given no upsets from the Falklands crisis.

Hanson Trust, one of the City's favourite management companies, has been suffering lately at the hands of investors nervous about its heavy reliance on the depressed United States economy.

The share price fell for most of last week, and fell again yesterday from Friday's closing price of 146p to 141p. Analysts are confident that the shares will stage a recovery and that Hansons will better last year's £49m pretax profits performance with figures between £55m and £57m. Historically, pretax profits have risen every year since the group went public in 1964.

The positive argument is that Hanson's £99m purchase of Berc corrected the imbalance caused by reliance on the United States assets, and the American businesses, with the exception of Seacoast, are not doing at all badly. Seacoast, which produces animal feedstuffs and edible oils from fish in the Gulf of Mexico, has been hard hit by the keen pricing of soya on the production of animal feeds.

In the United Kingdom, Hanson has reportedly been conducting an intensive management study into Bercor. This is understood to have already resulted in a decision to

Sir James Hanson: Sanguine

close Berec's advanced projects group. New products from Berec are awaited eagerly but expenditure on research and development has been reduced.

After financing costs, Berec is expected to contribute around £2m. Otherwise the position in the United Kingdom is expected to remain fairly static.

Perhaps the one worrying factor for Hanson is the high level of gearing the company has taken on to finance its acquisitions.

All parts of engineers EIS, which include aerospace, shoes and agricultural machinery, are operating profitably. EIS increased 1981 pretax profit from £2.2m to £2.8m, raised its dividend from 4.15p to 4.5p for the year, and generated £2.4m cash. By the end of 1981 cash and short term deposits stood at £3.5m.

EIS has grown steadily by acquisition, and that balance sheet must be making Mr Dick Reed, the deputy chairman and chief executive of the group, eager to proceed with his corporate plan. There will be less need for paper in the next deal — a positive point with institutional investors.

At 118p, up 2p on the day, the shares yield 5 per cent. Analyst Keith Ashworth-Lord at Henry Cooke, Lusmden, is going for 133.1p for this year, giving earnings per share of 10p and a prospective rating of 1.7. He points to steady growth in dividend and profit over the years, which he thinks is not properly reflected in the share price. But he sees a slow growth for a few months yet.

Mr Reed says that process plant did quite well as did aerospace. The question is, will aerospace keep it up in 1982? Hydraulic side did better than many in agricultural equipment.

New York, April 19. — Share prices were lower in active trading at the opening of the New York Stock Exchange today.

Dow Jones, up by 3.81 points on Friday, was down by 0.76 of a point, to 842.65, shortly after the market opened. The Dow Jones Average gained just 0.43 of a point last week overall.

Prices were mixed in active trading of American Stock Exchange issues.

The threat of a \$7.1bn. surge in the nation's money supply and the unresolved Falkland Islands crisis hung over Monday's trading.

[illegible]

Kansas Gas and Electric is issuing a \$40 (\$22m), seven-year Eurobond through an Australian syndicate of banks, says Merrill Lynch International manager Merril Lynch International said. The bond will carry a 15-1/2 per cent coupon and be priced at 98-1/2. It will be redeemable at 100-1/2 the fifth year of its life, at 100-1/2 the sixth year and at 100-1/2 the seventh year, said the company.

Union Pacific has reduced 1982 capital spending plans by \$180 million, says a company spokesman. The company yesterday reported first quarter profits were down 38 per cent to 50 cents a share, a 15 per cent decline in revenues to \$1,280m.

Terms have been finalized on the \$800m Eurocredit for Australia's Santos Ltd finance the South Australian cooper basin project, lead manager International Energy Bank said. The final maturity of the entire credit is December, 1987.

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[illegible]

WHEAT: May \$120.05; July, \$123.75; Sept \$107.85; Nov \$117.75; Jan \$113.60; March \$119.25. Sales: 244 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	OTHER MILLING WHEAT	FEED WHEAT	FEED BARLEY
East:ern	—	\$116.50	\$112.80
E. Mids.	—	\$117.50	\$111.60
N. East	—	\$118.30	\$111.00
Scotland	—	—	\$112.10

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fast-track prices at representative markets on April 10. — GB: Cattle, 102.25p per kg lw (-2.16). UK: Sheep, 153.55p per kg sdw (+10.99). GB: Pigs, 6-8p (-0.77). — Ireland: Cattle nos up 235.5 p cent. ave price, 102.55p (-4.02). Sheep nos up 419.9 p cent. ave price, 257.57p (+8.22). Pig nos up 7.7 p cent. ave price, 75.59p (-0.32). Scotland: Cattle nos down 3.7 p cent. ave price, 100.84p (-0.74). Sheep nos up 3.8 p cent. ave price, 152.25p (+1.55). Northern Ireland: BSR dept. ave price, 90.88p tel. 651.

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM
 April 277.25-78.00: May 277.75-
 78.25: June 276.50-77.00: July
 275.50-76.00: Aug 277.50-78.00: Sep
 283.00-84.00: Oct 283.00-85.00: Nov
 283.00-84.00: Dec 287.00- 95.00.
 Sales: 1,677 lots of 100 tonnes each.

LONDON TEA AUCTION. — There was more demand than of late for the 100 lb. teas offered at yesterday's London tea auction.

Assams met with good competition at fully firm to dearer rates with the emphasis on brighter lines and colour

ONE METAL STOCKS: — Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver, which is in troy ounces): Copper rose 1,800 to 134,000; Tin fell 165 to 38,795; Lead rose 2,400 to 85,950; Zinc fell 400 to 61,350; Aluminium rose 8,350 to 238,075; Nickel fell 78 to 2,190;

CAPITAL MARKETS

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Our cabin crew have always been smilingly attentive. Yet unobtrusive. With a Malaysian charm all their own. And the food we've been serving would do a Cordon Bleu chef proud. But then we wanted to give you more. So, we are changing our planes...

To big, roomy B74's. With the latest Rolls Royce engines.

And inside, 30 "Easy Sleeper" seats in First Class. With deeply padded footrests. And all done in brush velvet.

In addition, we have a brand new Business

Class. With wider seats — only 8 abreast.
And First Class benefits that include movies,
games, premium wines and liqueurs,
electronic headphones, a choice of gourmet
meals, and drinks. All on the house.

sections. With separate restrooms and galleys. And each with its very own cabin crew.

We do all this, simply because, on Malaysian Airline System, we want to



mas
malaysian airline system

We'll treat you like gold

We're now flying 747s to give you more of our golden service

Our new 747s offer First Class, Business & Economy.

For reservations contact Malaysian Airline Office, 25/27, St. George's Road, Singapore.

Bangkok • B.S. Begawan • Haaduai • Hong Kong • Jakarta • Jeddah • Madras • Manila • Medan • Perth • Seoul • Singapore • Taipei • Tokyo & 36 destinations within Malaysia.

هكذا من الأصل

Controlled expansion in line with our strategy

A year ago we announced the new emphasis being given to controlled expansion. We have made a satisfactory start towards achieving our targets, notwithstanding the severe action we felt it necessary to take in Canada and Australia. In both the US and the UK, our two largest territories, premiums increased by over 15% enabling us to achieve real growth without sacrificing sound underwriting principles.

Changes in presentation of the accounts

The general insurance profit has been struck after adding to the underwriting balance that part of the investment income allocated to the general insurance funds. We believe that this way of reporting our business accords with the realities of the market place and gives shareholders a clearer understanding of the return derived from our insurance operations.

Dividend

As we have said in the past, one of our prime objectives is to pursue a progressive dividend policy and we are adhering to this course whilst at the same time taking into account the need to retain profits to support the growth, both real and inflationary, in our business.

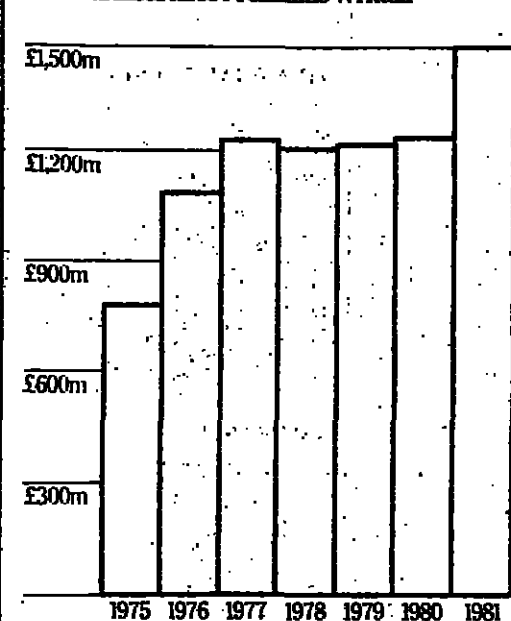
Insurance Company taxation

Under present tax law all additions to insurance companies' free reserves have to be made out of fully taxed earnings. Unlike industrial and other commercial concerns we receive no tax relief for the effect of inflation. We feel it would be equitable for UK insurance companies, as successful operators in world markets benefiting the economy through their overseas earnings, to qualify for some alleviation of tax towards mitigating the effect of inflation on the maintenance of their capital resources.

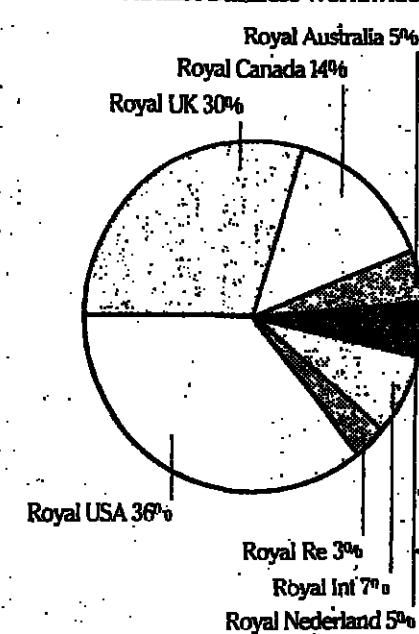
Summary of Results

	1981 £m	1980 £m
General Insurance		
Premiums Written	1,489.9	1,241.7
Underwriting Balance	-102.9	-40.3
Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations	152.3	113.3
General Insurance Profit	49.4	73.0
Long-term Insurance Profit	12.1	10.0
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves	49.0	33.0
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	7.0	6.2
Profit before Taxation	117.5	122.2
Less Taxation	44.9	50.4
Minority Interests	0.9	0.9
Net Profit attributable to the Shareholders	71.7	70.9
Dividend for the year	(38.5p)	(46.2p)
(pence per share)	(25.25p)	(24.0p)
Transfer to Retained Profits	24.1	29.2

General Insurance Premiums Written



General Insurance Business Worldwide



Our role in the community

We aim to act as responsible members of the communities in which we operate, in the conviction that we should do all we can to foster a stable climate in which to develop our business activities.

As a UK company, founded in Liverpool, we are glad to be playing a leading part in the Merseyside initiatives to alleviate youth unemployment and other social problems which arise in inner city areas.

We have substantially increased the number of young people we employ through the Manpower Services Commission both on Merseyside and throughout the United Kingdom. We have also seconded a senior manager to serve with the Merseyside task force and, on a national level, another to serve with the Financial Institutions Group, set up by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Future

The difficult trading conditions experienced in 1981 are likely to continue during 1982 and the turning point in some markets may not be reached until 1983.

Meanwhile we continue to maintain a close control over our underwriting operations and in the year ahead we will not hesitate to take strong corrective action wherever necessary. Our overall strategy continues to be to maintain and, where possible, increase our market share where we see profitable opportunities, in order to maximise the return on resources for which we are accountable.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Barbican Centre for Arts and Conferences on the 12th May, 1982.

Royal Insurance

Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London

Please send me a copy of the Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1981.

Name _____

Address _____

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Infant Cognition; 7.05 Perception: Cues and Schemes; 7.30 Reading Development; 7.55 Closedown; 12.05 For Schools: Junior Craft, Design and Technology. A teachers' programme (shown earlier on BBC 2); 12.25 Interval; 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Mollie Stuart; 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only); Financial report and news headlines with subtitles; 1.00 Pebble Mill at One takes a look at what life might be like in the year 2000; 1.45 The Plumpies. A See Saw programme for the very young; 2.00 Film: Girls, Girls, Girls (1982) starring Elvis Presley and Stella Stevens. An extremely light romp used mainly as a vehicle for the star's voice; 3.35 Leon Errol in The Spook Speaker; 3.50 Regional news (all London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Cartoons: The All New Popeye Show. Three funnies featuring the spinach-eating sailor.
4.40 The Record Breakers introduced by Roy Castle with Norris McWhirter.
5.05 John Craven's Newsround. The latest world news of interest to young people.
5.10 Renegade. Comic adventures of a tame spirit.
5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six.
6.25 Nationwide with Frank Bough and Richard Kershaw.
6.55 Cartoon: Bugs Bunny in Hare Tonic.
7.05 Young Musician of the Year. The brass semi-final introduced by Humphrey Burton.
7.40 Q.E.D. The Proof of the Pudding. Novel ways of cooking everyday food.
8.10 Flesh and Blood. Episode four of the drama about the owners of and workers in a cement factory and Max believes that he is being set-up for blackmail.

9.00 News with John Simpson.
9.25 Play for Tomorrow: Bright Eyes, by Peter Prince. It is 1999 and Britain is an established member of a European Community beset by a Euro-war. The play follows the fortunes of a small family and compares their political ideals with those of thirty years before. Starring Robin Ellis and Sarah Berger.
10.20 Snowdon on Camera. The last in the series and Snowdon assesses the 'worth' of a single photograph — some of which have been sold for as much as \$20,000. Among those he talks to are Sir Roy Strong, Ansel Adams and Diana Vreeland.
11.03 News headlines.
11.05 Harry O. Tonight he investigates a mystery killer who confesses his crime to a priest.
11.55 Weather.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Frequency Analysis; 7.05 Light: In Search of a Model; 7.30 A Question of Assessment; 7.55 Closedown. 9.00 For Schools: Colours; 9.20 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. 11.25 Closedown.

Robin Ellis: BBC 1 9.25pm

5.10 Stentorbury: A Blueprint. A look at the structure of this Milton Keynes campus.
5.40 Hawk of the Wilderness.
5.55 The Saga of Noddy the Nog.
6.05 Langley South. With Bob Langley on the ice patrol vessel Endeavour, heading for the Antarctic.
6.30 One Hundred Great Paintings. Edwin Mullins discusses Boucher's Girl on a Couch.
6.40 News with subtitles.
6.45 Film: Kiss Me Kate (1953) starring Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel and Ann Miller. A Cole Porter musical loosely based on the Taming of the Shrew.
8.30 Top Gear introduced by William Woollard from Britain's Auctions in Farnborough. Sue Baker reviews the Ford Fiesta XR2 and Frank Page the Austin Ambassador.

9.00 Pot Black 82. The best-of-three frames final between three times winner Eddie Charlton of Australia and the phenomenal world champion Steve Davis from London. Presenting the event to the winner is the Minister for Sport, Neil Macfarlane. — He will also present the Joe Davis Trophy for the highest break of the tournament. The match commentator is Ted Lowe.
10.00 Fields of Play. The first programme in the series examines role-playing fantasy games, business games and war games.
11.00 Newsnight. The latest world and domestic news plus an extended look at one of the stories that made this morning's headlines. Ends at 11.50.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 Fairy Tale: The Clothes That Went to a Party (7); 9.45 Wild, Wild World of Animals. The Rocky Mountain Big Horn sheep (7); 10.10 Animated Classics: 10.55 Dingo Country (7); 11.25 Paint Along with Nancy (7); 11.55 The Bubbles (7); 12.00 Burton Movie (7); 12.10 Let's Pretend. An action song for the very young; 12.30 The Sullivan, 1.00 News with Peter Sissons; 1.20 Thomas news; 1.30 Crown Court: Fair Play. A schoolmaster names a former pupil as his assailant at a fairground; 2.00 Afternoon News. Maureen Lipman talks to Mavis Nicholson about her play which opens this week; 2.25 Eastern from Epsom. Brough Scott introduces the Evelyn Handicap Stakes (2.30); the Blue Riband Trial Stakes (3.05); and the Dean Swift Handicap Stakes (3.35).

3.50 Home Sweet Home. Erzo helps a friend whose wife has moved out on him.
4.20 On Safari with Christopher Biggins and guest Lionel Blair.
4.45 CB TV — Channel 14. News, views and ideas for young people.
5.15 The Brady Bunch. Their neighbours adopt an eight-year old boy.
5.45 News. 5.50 Thames news.
6.25 Help! The new repertory about various benefits announced in the Budget are explained.
6.35 Crossroads. Why is J. Henry Pollard refusing to take telephone calls?
7.00 Horace. With his mother in bed with flu the simple-minded man loses no time in taking charge.
7.30 Give Us a Cue. Cleverly mime game between two teams — one led by Lionel Blair, the other by Una Stubbs.
8.00 Sorry I'm a Stranger Here Myself. Henry returns to village life after his brief foray in Datchet.
8.30 The Morecambe and Wise Show. The lovely Hannah Gordon falls for the irresistible charms of Eric.

9.00 The Brack Report. The scientist has left his job in the nuclear industry and joined forces as a consultant Harold Harlan. He sees Harlan as a man likely to bring a change in official nuclear policy but Harlan has his own reasons for employing Brack.
10.00 News.
10.30 The Human Race. In this third programme Desmond Morris investigates the development of human language. It is estimated that on average we use about 30,000 words a day. But how did we develop the crucial faculty? Among those Morris talks to are Mohawk Indians, comics and street gangs.
11.30 Kaz. The former jail bird now lawyer defends a popular baseball player accused of beating-up two fans.
11.25 Close with Dr Joseph Needham. who talks about truth and mankind.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 7.00, 8.00 Today's News. 7.30, 7.55 News Headlines. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.00 News. 8.15 Weather and Travel. 8.20 News. 8.35 Tuesday Call: 01-580 4411. 10.00 News. 10.05 From our own Correspondent. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.40 Morning Show. "The Forerunner" by Morris Hearn. 11.00 News and Travel. 11.05 Play: "Thanks Very Much" by Peter Stock. 11.35 W.B. Lister's questions. 12.00 News. 12.05 Your Diary. 12.27 Detective. Stories of crime and detection in London "Missing from Home". 12.55 Weather and Travel. 1.00 The World at One. 1.05 Morning. 2.00 News. 2.05 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.05 Concert (continued): Rossini, Smetana, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky; records. 4.00 News. 4.05 The Measure of the Table (new series) as enjoyed by the Rev John Eley. 4.10 Poles Apart. A look at the life of Poles who have made their home in this country. 4.40 Story Time: "Z for Zazac" by Robert O'Brien (G). 5.00 PM. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.05 Brain Of Britain 1982. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Chasers. 7.20 Medicine Now. 7.50 Animal Language (12) Danger! 8.20 Coming Home. A look at the life of Thomas More, monk 1915-1968.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 105.3kHz/285m or 108.9kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 808kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90-92MHz. Greater London Area MF 700kHz/417m. LBC MF 1224kHz/792m. VHF 97-98MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/154m. VHF 95-96MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Concert: Haydn, Scarlatti, Beethoven (monos). Scarlatti; records.
8.05 Concert (continued): Rossini, Smetana, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky; records.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Beethoven; records.
10.00 Bournemouth. Sinfonietta arr. Holman, Marjorie, Alfie. 11.05-11.55. 12.00. 12.05. 12.10. 12.15. 12.20. 12.25. 12.30. 12.35. 12.40. 12.45. 12.50. 12.55. 1.00. 1.05. 1.10. 1.15. 1.20. 1.25. 1.30. 1.35. 1.40. 1.45. 1.50. 1.55. 2.00. 2.05. 2.10. 2.15. 2.20. 2.25. 2.30. 2.35. 2.40. 2.45. 2.50. 2.55. 3.00. 3.05. 3.10. 3.15. 3.20. 3.25. 3.30. 3.35. 3.40. 3.45. 3.50. 3.55. 4.00. 4.05. 4.10. 4.15. 4.20. 4.25. 4.30. 4.35. 4.40. 4.45. 4.50. 4.55. 5.00. 5.05. 5.10. 5.15. 5.20. 5.25. 5.30. 5.35. 5.40. 5.45. 5.50. 5.55. 6.00. 6.05. 6.10. 6.15. 6.20. 6.25. 6.30. 6.35. 6.40. 6.45. 6.50. 6.55. 7.00. 7.05. 7.10. 7.15. 7.20. 7.25. 7.30. 7.35. 7.40. 7.45. 7.50. 7.55. 8.00. 8.05. 8.10. 8.15. 8.20. 8.25. 8.30. 8.35. 8.40. 8.45. 8.50. 8.55. 9.00. 9.05. 9.10. 9.15. 9.20. 9.25. 9.30. 9.35. 9.40. 9.45. 9.50. 9.55. 10.00. 10.05. 10.10. 10.15. 10.20. 10.25. 10.30. 10.35. 10.40. 10.45. 10.50. 10.55. 11.00. 11.05. 11.10. 11.15. 11.20. 11.25. 11.30. 11.35. 11.40. 11.45. 11.50. 11.55. 12.00. 12.05. 12.10. 12.15. 12.20. 12.25. 12.30. 12.35. 12.40. 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European pol: arrest per: protesters

By Our Foreign Staff

West in several East were gals yesterday. Europe demonstrations for amament and the urgid weapons funds spen the world's hun- on / were released last gry. niprotesters had also ed the release of Dr de Sakharov, the Soviet A Peace Prize winner, in internal exile, and Mr Lech Walesa the dined Polish Solidarity der.

The demonstrators were eld in East Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Sofia as well as Moscow. Food and Disarma- ment International, the Brus- sels-based coordinating body said that the demonstrators in Bucharest were given a completely different recep- tion to those elsewhere.

They were allowed to distribute leaflets to a crowd of people and to speak to them, and were applauded. Rumanian police checked the Westerners' identities, but no attempt was made to detain them.

The demonstrators were members of small West European radical parties and of a Spanish conscientious objectors' movement. Three of those arrested in Prague during the protest were said to be Poles, but the organiz- ers said last night that they had no confirmation of this.

The seven detained in Moscow during the simulta- neously planned East Europe- an demonstrations were released last night after questioning. A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Minis- try described the incident as trivial, and said that the group — French, Belgian, Italian and Spanish subjects — would leave the Soviet

Union today when their tourist visas had expired.

Food and Disarmament International said that those held in East Berlin had also been released and allowed to cross into West Berlin. But Brussels was still trying to find out what had happened to the people arrested in Prague and Budapest.

More than 20 Westerners took part in the demon- strations in the six cities. No one went to Warsaw because it was impossible to get visas in time, a spokesman said.

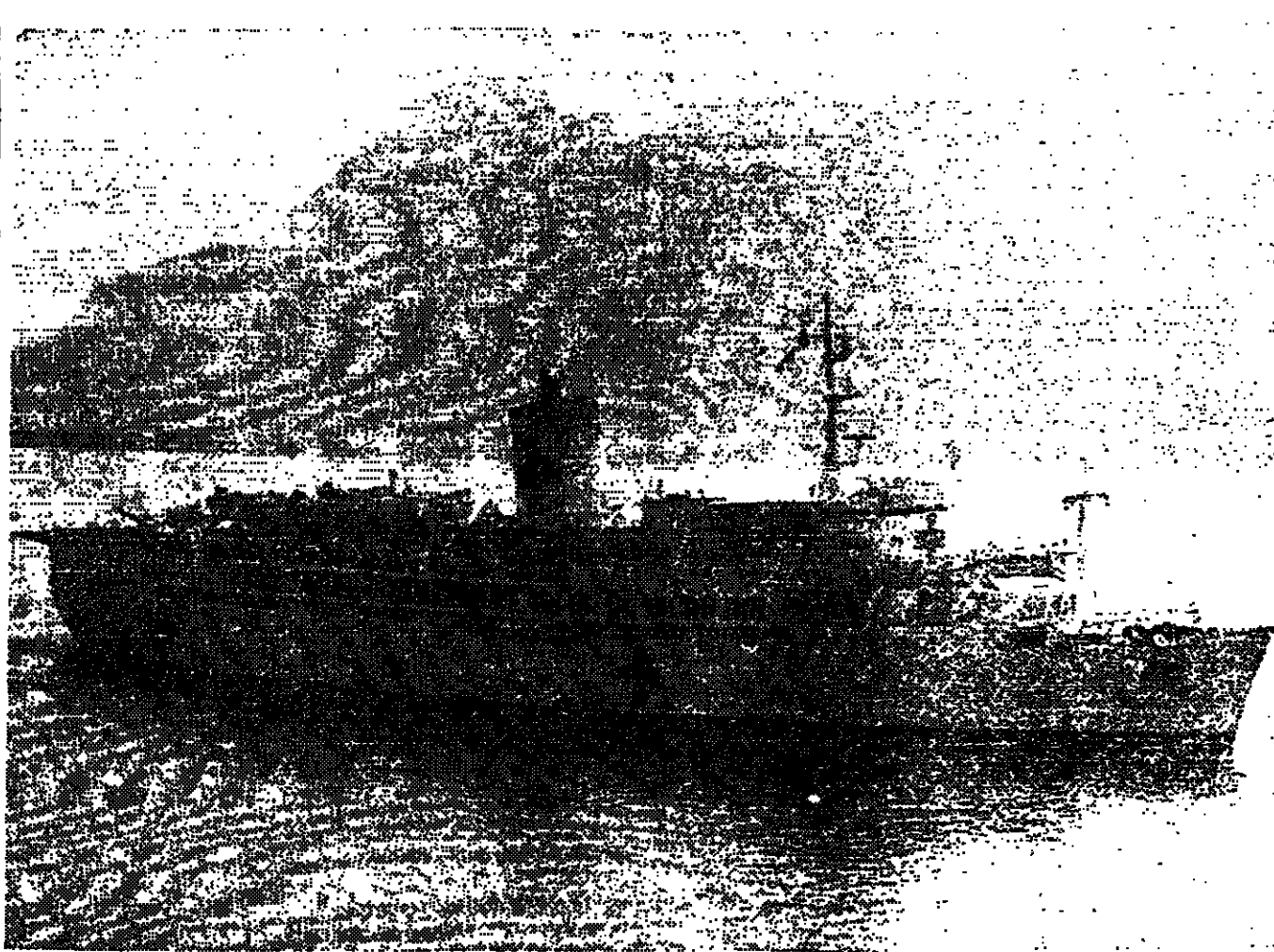
The reception in Bucharest may have been a small sign of the way the Romanians are apt to take the demon- strations in the six cities. No one went to Warsaw because it was impossible to get visas in time, a spokesman said.

Different slogans were used in the various cities to underline the common theme. In Moscow, the group unfurled an 18ft blue lettered banner with the words "Bread, Life and Disarma- ment" in Red Square as tourists gathered near the Lenin Mausoleum.

Security police beat down the demonstrators and banded the protesters into a waiting car. The action apparently provoked little interest among the hundreds of bystanders.

A statement issued to Western correspondents said that leaders banded on called on the Soviet Govern- ment to give 0.7 per cent of its gross national product to feeding developing countries.

The protests stemmed from a manifesto signed by 73 Nobel Prize winners, and called for a radical change of conscience in the world to save tens of millions of people facing starvation.



The cruise liner Uganda, bearing Red Cross markings, sails out of Gibraltar

Older Yamit protesters discount suicide threat

Continued from page 1

morning, Israel's two chief rabbis arrived at the Yamit bunker symbolically dub- bed "Masada" in memory of an earlier Jewish siege in an effort to persuade the protesters to drop their death threat. The youngsters re- fused to recant after shouted conversations through a ventilation shaft. They claim to have already drawn up lots about the order in which they would die at two-hourly intervals if the Yamit with- drawal went ahead.

Although the threat was being taken seriously by the authorities, many of the older protesters appeared sceptical that it would be carried out, dismissing the Kach mem- bers as overly theatrical.

Urgent efforts were under way today to install a hot line to the bunker to allow the protesters to talk directly to Rabbi Meir Kahane, their leader. He recently left for New York after claiming to have been informed by his mother that the Begin Government in- tended to reimpose an admini- strative detention order on him.

Meanwhile as the flurry of diplomatic activity surround-

ing Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai continued, opti- mism was increasing on all sides that the pull-back will take place as planned despite recent strains in Israeli- Egyptian relations.

The optimism, encouraged by recent remarks made by Mr Walter Stoessel, the Deputy American Secretary of State, was given a further boost today after talks between Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Both Mr Ali and an official spokesman for Mr Begin endeavoured to play down the problems still outstanding after the first of two meetings during the day.

Photograph, page 8

Iranian diplomat quits in protest

Rome. — Mr Mohammad Hossein Naghi, the Charge d'Affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Rome, has re- signed in protest over the massacres in Iran. In a statement, he attacked "the absence of individual and collective freedom in Iran,

US embarrassed by security lapse

Continued from page 1

complete organizational breakdown with diagrams and potted and far from flattering biographies of their leaders.

American diplomats in the Middle East have confirmed privately that the documents are genuine. They are re- garded as so sensitive that when an American television crew attempted to take the Iranian books into the United States, they were confiscated by security authorities.

It is clear, however, that some documents were so sensitive that the Iranians felt constrained not to publish them. Among the papers recording Ayatollah Khomeini's accession to power, for example, there is apparently evidence that Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, the imam's Islamic Republican Party heir-apparent until his murder last summer, main- tained secret personal bank accounts in West Germany.

Beheshti is said to have met senior American gen- erals just before the Shah's overthrow in 1979, and papers recording these dis- cussions have also been suppressed. So has evidence that in the autumn of 1979 the East German Embassy in

Kabul furnished the United States Government with proof that the Soviet Army was planning to intervene in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, those whom Ayatollah Khomeini's followers wish to destroy have been compromised by the embassy files. Not least of these is the elderly Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who at one time appeared to be a theological rival to Ayatollah Khomeini.

A United States embassy memorandum of September, 1978, states that "the head of the Pepsi distributing company . . . revealed that four years ago Shariat-Madari was paid to promote Pepsi operations in Iran".

A long series of papers record meetings between "United States" Government officials and Amir Abbas Entezam, who was Deputy Prime Minister in Mr Mehdi Bazargan's first revolution- ary government. On the basis of these documents, Mr Entezam is serving life im- prisonment behind the for- bidding walls of Evin jail.

And last week, it is now reported, Shariat-Madari was arrested in Qom while Revolutionary Guards ransacked his home.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A crisis world view extends to Wales

Crisis there is, but out- wardly the Commons bears the aspect of a place where nothing is different from what it was before. Life must go on; or, if not life, then at least Welsh question time.

Wales is a tiny, forgotten speck of the globe about the size of the Falkland Islands. (The Falkland Islanders must by now be tired of hearing it put the other way around. So I thought I would redress the balance.)

But yesterday the Commons found time, as it does every few weeks, for various MPs named Jones to groan and wail their way through three-quarters of an hour.

It was a timeless, reassur- ing scene. We were a nation which had just despatched to the other side of the earth a large fleet, equipped with the most modern means of destruction, some of which had never before been used in anger by any other nation; a fleet about to meet a fate, glorious or otherwise, which could not be foretold. At least of the Government that sent it. And yet our legislature could still find time for Mr Alec Jones, Labour MP for Rhondda, to get up and demand from a Minister a "long-term review" into the need for a second Severn bridge.

Bridges, when demanded by politicians, are almost always largely useless: beautiful, certainly, but invariably surplus to re- quirements. Remember the Humber Bridge, now span- ning Humber as a result of a by-election long ago? The point, however, is that a Welsh politician named Jones, demanding an extra bridge, is evidence that Britain's free political insti- tutions are carrying on as usual.

'Encourage the arts in the regions' Other traditions were being observed. During questions to the Minister of the Arts, one backbencher said it was "important to encourage the arts in the regions". He won murmurs of approval from both sides of the House. The Minister, Mr Paul Channon, a genial soul anxious to please as widely as possible, agreed. Whereupon, a Tory from London got up and, though he phrased it more pru- dently, argued quite cor- rectly that of course most

of the Arts Council loot should go to London be- cause, when compared with the brutish regions, London was . . . well, more arty. He drew murmurs of disap- proval from both sides of the House, there being more regional than London MPs. Even Mr Channon could not quite agree with him.

None of this is to suggest that, whatever they may be talking about, MPs are thinking about anything other than the Falklands. The House has been num- bered by the subject for over two weeks now. When it reassembled yesterday after the brief Easter recess, this remained the situation de- spite — or because of — the fact that there is now this full which seems endless, but which cannot last long. Within a very short time something is going to happen. But what? It was so obvious yesterday that no one knew.

Ready to wage total negotiation

Mr Pym, the Foreign Secretary, arrived and made a routine statement on the crisis. Nothing of substance had changed.

The politicians on all sides had by yesterday begun to fit the crisis into their general world view or at least the view they think is expected of them. Thus Mr Healey, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, went on and on at Mr Pym about the need to involve the United Nations, seeing a future for the islands consisting of endless peace keeping forces, diplomatic initiatives and independent admini- strators. He stood prepared to wage total negotiation.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour, Lewisham, West, fitting it all into his world view, complained to Mr Pym of Lloyd's under- writers and City types, as well represented on the benches behind the Foreign Secretary, who were still doing business with Argen- tina. Mr Price thus becom- ing the first to raise the people's traditional cry of war profiteering. Mr Pym was less aggressive in tone than when first appointed in the wake of Lord Caring- ton. But there was no way of telling whether that was significant, so unknown did the future remain when he sat down.

Man shot dead in raid

A man was shot dead yesterday and his wife in- jured in a raid on a house in Birtcher Park, Southampton. The dead man's 18-year-old daughter ran from the house covered in blood and scream- ing: "They have shot my father."

Hampshire police named the dead man last night as Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Iwan. His wife, Mrs Malik Iwan, was in Southampton General Hospi- tal with head injuries.

Mrs Gloria Brown, who

lives near by in Thorold Road, said the family had been packing to emigrate to Canada. They were thought to be at a restaurant. There were reports that they had advertised gold for sale.

Soon after the shooting hundreds of families were evacuated when armed police surrounded a block of flats in Exford Drive, Southampton. The siege ended after three hours when a man came out of one of the flats. Last night a man and woman were assisting the police inquiries.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Margaret opens Glasgow Holiday Inn, Glasgow, 1. The Duchess of Kent, Presi- dent, attends BBC Television Young Musicians of the Year Finals Final, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, 6.50.

New exhibitions
Spring Exhibition, including work by Rodney Barn, Diana Armitfield and John Flavlin, Royal West of England Galleries, Queens Road, Bristol; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30; (from today until May 15).

Sat 10 to 5.30; (from today until May 15).

Exhibitions in progress
Animals and Landscapes: paint- ings, drawings, prints and sculp- ture by various artists, Royal Gallery, Tebury, Gloucestershire; 10 to 6 daily; (until May 8).
Seven Artists: Manchester Print Workshops, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; Thurs 10 to 9; (until May 13).
Drawings, paintings and sculp- ture by Dorothy Bradford and Sam Tonkoss; Forsyth, 125 Deansgate, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 15).

Sat 9 to 5.30; (until April 30).

The Roaring Game: the evolu- tion of the game of curling in its social context. City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edin- burgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 8).
Paintings by Walter Dor- ington; Middleborough Art Gallery, 320 Limbrough Road, Middleborough; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 11).
Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; Sun 2.30 to 5.30; (until May 16).

Sculpture by Henry Moore, Rozelle House Museum, Rozelle Park, Nyr; Mon to Sat 11 to 1 & 2 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 25).

Watercolours, oil paintings and sculpture by the artists of the Hatfield Road Group, City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethes- da Street, Hanley, Stoke-on- Trent; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Wed 10.30 to 8; (until May 15).

Leaves Never Grow on Trees: prints from Max Ernst's Histoire Naturelle, Billingham Art Gal- lery; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; (until May 12).

Making Good: craftwork from the South-east, City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Portsmouth; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5.30; (until May 23).

Images of India: 19th century photographs, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 9).

Embroidered panels by John Wimbury and porcelain by Hazel Johnston, Peter Dingley Gallery, 16 Meier Street, Stratford-on-Avon; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1.30 and 2.30 to 5.30; Thurs 9.30 to 1; (until May 11).

Last chance to see

Photographs of the Antarctic by H G Ponting, RPS National Centre of Photography, Octagon, Milson Street, Bath; 10 to 4.45; (ends today).

Talks, lectures
History of the Great Western Permanent Way, by John Mann, British Rail Staff Association Bids, Temple Meads Station Approach, Bristol, 7.30.

Charles Darwin — Early Life, by I Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edin- burgh, 2.

Recital by Emma Kirkby (soprano) and Anthony Rooley (lute) Wingfield College, Wing- field, Eye, Suffolk, 7.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Timetable motion on Employment Bill. Debate on satellite and cable broadcasting.

Lords (2.30): Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries

Canaleto died in Venice, 1768. Foundation of the city of Rome, according to Varro, BC 753.

Law courts

Easter sittings at the Royal Courts of Justice start today; the Easter term ends on Friday May 28.

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index average of second-hand houses (seasonally adjusted)			
Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	% change over the preceding 3 months
1977 December	100.0	14.757	21.2
1978 December	121.1	17.888	10.7
1979 December	121.0	22.591	8.9
1980 December	166.2	24.523	10.0
1981 January	167.1	24.752	8.9
February	167.1	24.752	8.9
March	172.9	25.511	9.3
April	172.9	25.511	9.3
May	171.5	25.304	6.0
June	169.5	25.003	3.3
July	169.5	25.003	3.3
August	169.5	25.003	3.3
September	169.5	25.003	3.3
October	169.5	25.003	3.3
November	169.5	25.003	3.3
December	169.5	25.003	3.3
1982 January	163.1	24.072	-3.7
February	162.6	23.999	-5.6
March	166.2	24.382	-1.7

All last house prices are on the move again after having been the last in the index. According to the latest Times/Halifax building society index, prices increased by an average 1.6 per cent during March, marking the end of a period of price stability which began in January 1981.

The average price of a second-hand house in March was £166,200, a 1.6 per cent increase on the £163,100 of January 1982.

Regionally the recovery in house prices continues to be led by the Greater London area, where average prices have risen by 5 per cent during the last three months.

Prices for new houses also rose slightly in March and are now slightly above the level of a year ago.

The papers

The British aim now must be the freedom of the Falklands, not just repossession of the islands, says the Daily Mirror, even though it means negotiating with a "repulsive regime".

In proposing a 12 month rent freeze for both municipal and private tenants if they win the next elections Labour is running out the tired old housing recipe that has failed the country in the past", says the Sheffield Morning Telegraph.

The Falklands crisis is serious, the Washington Post said yesterday, but pointed out how much more serious it would be a few years hence when Argentina has its own atomic weapons.

The pound

Bank Buys 1.75 25.47
Bank Sells 1.75 25.47
Australia \$ 92.25 87.25
Belgium Fr 2.22 2.13
Canada \$ 15.00 14.25
Denmark Kr 12.26 1.21
France Fr 11.50 10.90
Germany Dm 4.44 4.19
Greece Dr 116.00 109.00
Hongkong \$ 10.50 10.00
Italy Lira 2385.00 2285.00
Japan Yen 191.00 182.00
Netherlands Gld 4.90 4.64
Norway Kr 11.20 10.60
Portugal Esc 131.50 124.50
South Africa Rd 2.20 2.04
Spain Ptas 191.00 182.00
Sweden Kr 10.50 10.36
Switzerland Fr 3.62 3.40
USA \$ 1.81 1.74
Yugoslavia Dnr 97.00 91.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as quoted by Reuters Bank International. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency holdings.

London: The FT Index closed up 7.4 at 558.1.

Rail

Because of unofficial industrial action by some guards at Chingford, rail services between Chingford and Liverpool Street are expected to be severely restricted this morning; also some cancellations this afternoon on Enfield, Hertford East and Bishops Cleeve lines.

For up-to-date pre-recorded in- formation, call 01-247 5482.

Sporting fixtures

Football: First Division: Ever- ton v Nottingham Forest (7.45); Ipswich v Manchester United (7.30).
Second division: W. Bright- on v Middlesbrough v Bright- on.
Third division and fourth division matches.

Racing: Flat at Epsom (2) and Wolverhampton (2). NH at Devon and Exeter (2) and Sedgemoor (2.15).
Tennis: British hard court championships at Bournemouth.

Weather forecast

Anticyclone over the southern North sea

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, Channel Is- lands, SW, NW, Cent Southern.

Cent, England, Wales: Dry sunny periods after early mist or fog clears. Wind variable light. Max temp 13-15C (55-59F). Cooler on coasts. Max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

London, Cent S, Cent N, England, Wales: Dry sunny periods after early mist or fog clears. Wind variable light. Max temp 14-18C (57-65F).

SE, E, NE, England, East Angles: Dry sunny periods after early mist or fog clears. Wind variable, light. Max temp 13-15C (55-59F). Cooler on coasts. Max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Bright or sunny intervals, a few showers. Wind SW, light to moderate. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, Scotland, Argyll: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain becoming brighter and drier later. Wind SW moderate to fresh. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, out- breaks of rain, becoming brighter and drier later. Wind SW, fresh to strong. Max temp 9C (48F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mainly dry, sunny periods. Rather warm. Night frost in places.

SEA PASSES

S North Sea: Straits of Dover, English Channel: Wind N, light or moderate; sea slight. St George's Channel: Wind variable, light; sea moderate. Wind SW, light or moderate; sea slight.

Lighting-up time

London 8.25 pm to 5.25 am
Birmingham 8.45 pm to 5.45 am
Edinburgh 8.45 pm to 5.45 am
Glasgow 8.45 pm to 5.45 am
Penzance 8.35 pm to 5.35 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: L, fair, a sun

Yesterday

London 11.2 C, 53.6 F
Birmingham 10.7 C, 51.3 F
Edinburgh 10.7 C, 51.3 F
Glasgow 10.7 C, 51.3 F
Penzance 10.7 C, 51.3 F

London

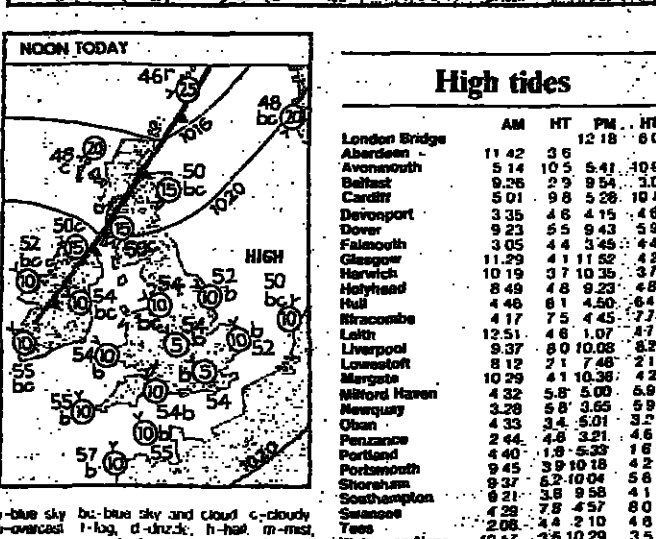
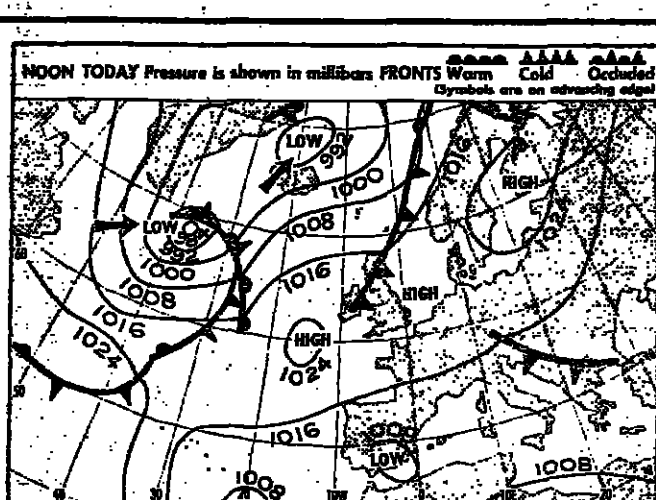
Temp: max 7.1 in 7 pm, 16.1C (61F); min 7.1 in 7 pm, 16.1C (61F). Humidity 7 pm, 85 to 91 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 7 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr, 1,021.7 m. Sea: mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,001.7 m. Steady.

Highest and lowest

Highest: 17C (63F) Valley, Alderbury, Dorset, 17C (63F). Lowest: day max, 10.7C (51.3F). Night min, 7.1C (44.8F). Highest sunrise: 13.7 hr.

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Around Britain			
Station	Max	Min	Wind
Scarborough	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Birmingham	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Glasgow	11.9	10.0	Sunny
London	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Manchester	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Newcastle	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Nottingham	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Sheffield	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Southampton	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Stirling	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Wolverhampton	11.9	10.0	Sunny
Wrexham	11.9	10.0	Sunny

Abroad			
Station	Max	Min	Wind
Algeria	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Amsterdam	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Antwerp	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Athens	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Bombay	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Buenos Aires	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Calcutta	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Canton	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Cebu	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Hankow	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Hong Kong	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Kobe	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Lyons	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Manila	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Medan	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Shanghai	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Singapore	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Sourabaya	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Tientsin	17.0	10.0	Sunny
Yokohama	17.0	10.0	Sunny

* denotes that night's figure are latest available